

INSIDE

SOCCER

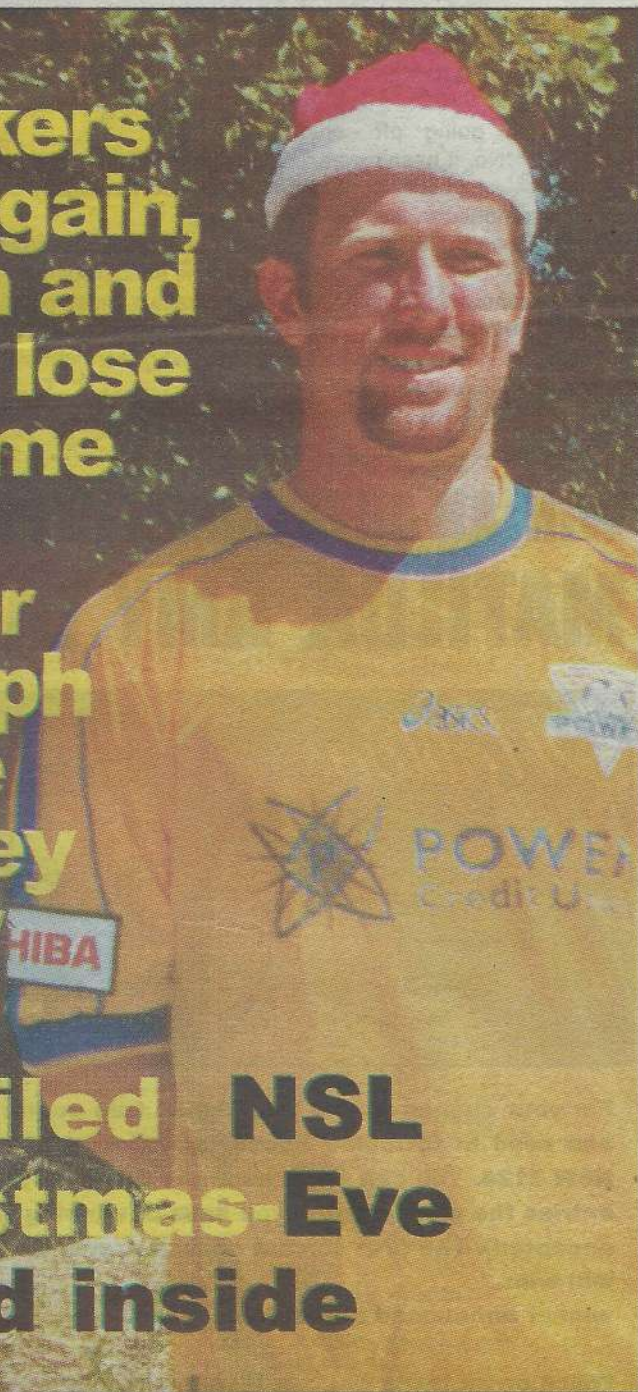
Registered with Australia Post as a publication PP224696/00050 - ISSN 1321-8980

December 21 1999. \$3.00

JUST DO IT!

Breakers win again, South and Spirit lose at home while Power triumph in the Sydney derby

Detailed NSL Christmas-Eve round inside



Stakeholders push NSL clubs to reform sooner rather than later

If some of the NSL clubs thought the game's stakeholders would show them some Christmas cheer, they were sadly mistaken. Last weekend's meetings between the clubs and Soccer Australia, and later with the stakeholders, showed who has the decisive power in Australian soccer, as plans to reform and streamline the league were kept on track for the start of next season.

When you have a 74% interest and vote in the game - as the state federation stakeholders do - you hold the whip hand, and on the weekend they used that as a cudgel to hold the clubs to the long held date of 2000/2001 to relaunch the league.

However it is believed that the state federations weren't united in their decision, the push from the powerful NSW Federation - Australia's most financial state body - together with Victoria, won the day for the changes.

It is no secret that both those federations have been agitating for a second division as a way of giving their most powerful clubs added motivation.

There will be a planned 12-team 'Premier' league, with a 10-team second division. The promotion and relegation issue will not begin until after the first two years of this format.

The NSL consultative meeting - subsequent to a resolution by the NSL executive - had initially proposed to defer the relaunch of the league until 2001/2002, run a feasibility study on a second division and

undertake a consultative process with the clubs and stakeholders to finalise criteria for adoption by Soccer Australia.

In effect, the clubs felt they needed more time and the NSL executive, mindful of a potential legal 'shitfight' as one official said, acquiesced to their demands after a 13-2 vote (with Perth Glory's Nick Tana abstaining.)

Yet when the clubs have only a 26% influence in the game, it gives them little if any power to push through decisions, as demonstrated here with this move.

This of course would have undermined Soccer Australia's image as a decisive and proactive leader in our game, particularly as the date of 2000/2001 has been on the agenda for the last year, as recommended by the Soccer 21 strategic document.

This should be a busy Christmas as a number of clubs must organise themselves to meet the criteria. There may be talks of mergers - perhaps in Melbourne and Sydney with some of the underperforming clubs - as well as new franchises wishing to get on board.

As with the NRL and their recent and similar league restructuring, club mergers would be looked upon favourably. Of course Soccer Australia would not have the funds the NRL has to throw at such ventures.

Final decisions on who is in which league will be made the day after this year's Grand Final, on June 12.

See Greg Blake's story on page three.

Plus: Harry James, Anissa Tann-Darby, Aussies Abroad, Robert Bustos, Super League, Greg Blake, Mark Babic, Tony Petty and the Four Diegos with George Negus. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**Our new
Sydney
number is
9806 0554**

Fax:

98060553

**Inside Soccer
Postal Address
is now**

**PO Box 3889
Parramatta
2124**

Glory can win the league, says Breakers' Lee Sterrey

By Aidan Ormond

Lee Sterrey is a straight-shooter. He tells it like it is, and he believes Glory are the side that will be top of the heap at the end of the home and away season.

"Glory, Olympic and Carlton will be there, and once South Melbourne has finished its commitments they will be in the six, no doubt."

The wily Sterrey neglected to mention his own side, Newcastle Breakers. After four wins on the trot they sit just outside of the six; most punters would be putting their money on them making the six this year.

"We play two ways," Sterrey explained. "It depends on who we play and I just change the cattle to suit."

As for last Friday night Sterrey was concerned that Glory would dominate in midfield, with what he described as "the best midfield in the league."

"With us playing a 4-4-2 and them a 3-5-2 I thought it may be difficult for us, but we are a compact team that works very hard. What we lack in mobility and perhaps individual quality, we make up in organisation and commitment."

"Going down to Carlton next week will be tough ... we always go out to win, because if you don't you're in trouble, but if we end up with a draw I won't be unhappy. Carlton is a strong side all over the park," concluded the Breakers coach.

Meanwhile down in Melbourne it sounded like Ange Postecoglou was breaking into a car when he was phoned by Inside Soccer.

With the noise of a car alarm going off Postecoglou quickly put that idea to rest. "No, it hasn't got that desperate yet!"

In a quieter spot 'Posti' was keen to emphasize the importance of this Thursday's brought-forward Round 15 game against Wolves.

"This is a must-win game for us. Lozanovski is out injured but we are hopeful of 'Trimmers' being there."

Inevitably talk turned to the WCC. The side leaves on Jan 2 and four days later play Vasco Da Gama and

on Jan 11 Manchester United.

"Obviously it's been on the backburner but now it is right there in our minds. I have noticed too that Vasco have been struggling a little in the league and being a Brazilian side, they will probably be even harder to beat on their home turf."

Back in Sydney and table-topping Sydney Olympic knocked off Brisbane Strikers at Belmore on Sunday.

Coach Branko Culina felt it was a good "all-round team effort. We defended well and the midfield and forward line did their jobs, so I can't ask for more than that."

"We are in the middle of a tough three-game run. This run should see whether we have got what it takes and it will test our quality and depth."

Olympic is at Power next week, a team he does not take lightly. "They have too many good players to not take seriously. I will never underestimate them, despite their league position, and hopefully we won't give them any easy Christmas presents."

In other news at Olympic, striker Pablo Cardozo has been offered a spot at Cordoba in the Spanish second division.

The cut-off date for transfers in Spain is January 15, 2000 and the club has offered Olympic US\$100,000 to loan Cardozo until the end of the season, while Olympic is asking 400,000 as an outright transfer.

The player will be on a free at the end of the season.

Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos, who was sounding like the bad weather had given him a touch of the flu, believed his side, currently sitting in fourth after a 3-0 home win over Cosmos, was creating numerous chances.

"It's a headache for me these missed chances. I feel we dominated territorially but we have to put more chances away."

"I think only once this season have we been outplayed, which is encouraging."

For Australia's most comprehensive look at the weekend NSL, see pages 10 through to 19, which includes the next generation playing in the NYL.

INSIDE SOCCER

PO BOX 3889 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

PHONE: (02) 9806 0554
FAX: (02) 9806 0553

MANAGING EDITOR: JOHN VRTARIC
Email: johnv@insidesoccer.com.au
EDITOR: AIDAN ORMOND
E-mail: editor@insidesoccer.com.au
Correspondents: Melbourne: GREG BLAKE
Sydney: ROGER SLEEMAN

CONTRIBUTORS: Alan Clark, Mark Fisher, Kevin Christopher, Ben Cubby, Melissa Muscat, Sally Orpin, Margaret Bowden, Stephen Webb, Donald Campbell, Paul Goodwin, Chris Dunkerley, Cameron Atfield, Lucio Viggiano, Dennis Gedling, Jeremy Ruane, Chris Conti, Richard Beazley, Jack Warner, Michael Kmet, Mark Fowler, Daniela Raco, Anissa Tann-Darby, Nick Guoth, Greg Stock, Grant Stantiall.

ADVERTISING: SYDNEY: JOHN VRTARIC
(02) 98060554 OR 0412 698 185
ROGER SLEEMAN (02) 9806 0554
MELBOURNE: GREG BLAKE (03) 9370 1217

Photography: Allsport, Joe Palos, Brett Kluznik, Matt Curtis, Michael Cronin

Publisher: Inside Soccer Pty Ltd
A.C.N. 088 107 822

Printing: Apex Printers Arncliffe NSW Tel: (02) 9597 6866
Distribution: Wrapaway, Marrickville NSW Tel: (02) 9550 1622

* All material appearing in Inside Soccer is copyright and reproduction in any form whatsoever is expressly forbidden without the written permission of the publisher.

RECOMMENDED
AND MAXIMUM
PRICE \$3.00

WIN AN AUTOGRAPHED POSTER OF MATILDA AMY TAYLOR



For your chance to win this signed free poster cut this ad out and send in to Inside Soccer at PO BOX 3889 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124. You can enter as many times as you like, the more entries the more chance you have of winning (photocopies not accepted). The first correct answer drawn on January 3, 2000 will win: winner announced in the Jan 4 issue.

WHICH OTHER TEAMS WILL THE MATILDAS PLAY IN THE AUSTRALIA CUP IN JANUARY 2000?

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

A WIN FOR STRONG LEADERSHIP

By Greg Blake

This past week was always destined to be a tough one at the office for Soccer Australia chairman, Basil Scarcella.

Not that you'd sense it; Scarcella is consistently unflappable.

If he were on the 'Titanic' he'd be the one wondering what all the fuss was about with the life-rafts.

Not unexpectedly, Scarcella appeared unflustered by the controversial and very public nature of the build-up to and same-day rigours of last weekend's series of decision-maker's meetings in Sydney.

The powderkeg was always the critical issue of reducing the size of the NSL and the introduction of a second division.

By Saturday night the issue appeared settled, the decision by the NSL clubs - who voted 13 to 2 and one abstainer in favor of implementing the change to a 12-team NSL and 10-strong second division, but only on the basis an extra twelve months to prepare - had also apparently been grudgingly accepted by the shareholders.

However, at the subsequent SA board meeting on Sunday it was decided that the 're-launch' of the league would go ahead for 2000/2001, as originally scheduled.

Despite the threat of legal challenges by the clubs obviously under the hammer and a limited preparation time for the revamping of the competition - as yet there is still no clearly defined plan made

public for the second division - Scarcella maintains that the rallying point for all last weekend was the sense of common purpose.

"The positive element of all this is that there is a general agreement with the reform package," he explained.

"A mood of co-operation amongst the stakeholders like that is rare.

"Overall the day was positive in that the initiative was passed.

"We all agree and accept the need to reform the national competition.

"As it is (the NSL) is not attractive to the public, corporate support, television, sponsors... anyone.

"Obviously the main concern was the implementation and timing of the changes.

"As we outlined, we were suggesting 2000/2001 but certainly the general consensus of the clubs was that June or July next year was too early.

"But after further consultation with the states the board met and it was decided to go ahead as scheduled.

"If we were sure a 12-month delay would make a difference it would have gone that way, but we don't believe it would make any difference."

If Scarcella appeared comfortable with the outcome of Saturday's roundtables, he was no less convincing in the wake of Sunday's board decision.

To many the 12-month delay was certainly the most palatable option, with all appeared and no obvious losers.

With customary dignity and aplomb - you have to admire Scarcella's poker-faced consistency - he is confident problems in implementing the plans will be

minimal.

"I can understand why the clubs wanted the delay," he explained.

"It has taken from (last) February until now to come up with the benchmarks and if it meant delaying everything to avoid missing implementation of the changes we would.

"But I can see no problems with the time frame, otherwise we wouldn't press ahead with it."

The long-time South Australian-based SA chairman, who swept into power in the wake of high-profile David Hill's resignation, acknowledged that public perception of a delay might have been misinterpreted as a typically soft option.

"I don't want to be seen to be contemplating my navel, because that is certainly not the case," he said.

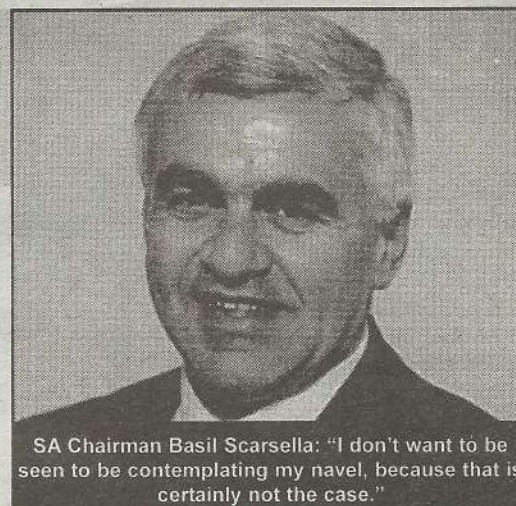
"But we had to tread warily with this, particularly as this is the first time such a plan had been put to the stakeholders.

"The David Hill sledgehammer approach is not my approach and because the board took a consultative rather than confrontational approach I believe this led to a genuine acceptance (of the plan)."

Despite the general scepticism about the viability of a second division Scarcella is optimistic that the new 10-team competition will provide a spark for the Australia's now struggling state competitions.

"There is always a risk (that it will not work), but we expect that if we provide the right competition structure it will create a huge boost for the state federations," he explained.

"I have no illusions that it will create



SA Chairman Basil Scarcella: "I don't want to be seen to be contemplating my navel, because that is certainly not the case."

a great promotional vehicle for the game, but that is not the purpose.

"As far as getting that competition up and running, again, I can see no problems with the time frame, otherwise we wouldn't press ahead."

The board's decision to stick by its original re-organisation timetable is to some extent a brave gamble. It has been taken in spite of the ever-present threat of legal action from the clubs in relegation's gunsight, but negated the possibility of a 12-month period in which the risk of political bartering overturning the decision was a real one.

Is this then a sign that the Soccer Australia board is prepared to take on a significantly more proactive and assertive leadership role?

"The short answer is yes," declared the chairman.

In other news ... the Socceroo friendly against Wales on Feb 22 is off. The Welsh FA did not give a reason. Australian coach Frank Farina said: "I'm very disappointed, but national associations are known to change their mind for a range of reasons from time to time."



THE POWER &



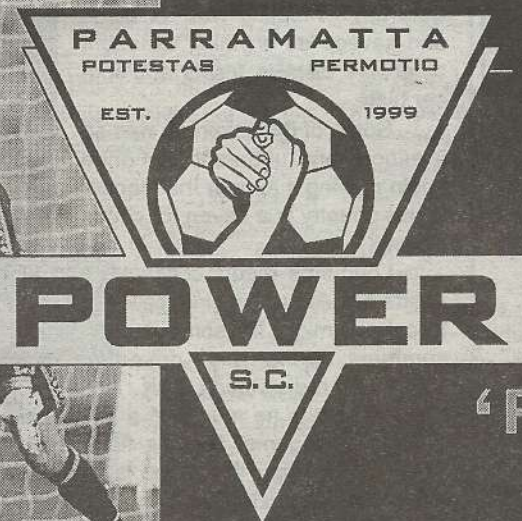
THE PASSION

Switch onto

POWER

Credit Union

PRINCIPAL CORPORATE PARTNER



VS -

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 28
AT THE

'POWERHOUSE'
[PARRAMATTA STADIUM]

• GATES OPEN 5PM
• YOUTH LEAGUE 5.30PM

• MAIN GAME 7.30PM

MEET THE
POWER PLAYERS
AFTER THE GAME

- CLOWNS • FACE PAINTING & FIREWORKS
- TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ALL TICKETEK OUTLETS INCLUDING PARRAMATTA LEAGUES CLUB AND AT THE GROUND
- FREE SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE FROM PARRAMATTA STATION FROM 5.30PM

LAST CHANCE TO

WIN A HOLIDAY

BE AT THE GAME FOR YOUR LAST CHANCE TO WIN A HOLIDAY PACKAGE FOR TWO TO NEW ZEALAND TO SEE THE POWER PLAY THE KINGZ IN JANUARY 2000

CROOKY

Christmas is upon us and I must admit Christmas has always been a pretty special time of the year as far as football is concerned.

In England it was always said that the Championships race really kicks into full gear after Christmas. I believe the same can be said for the National Soccer League in Australia.

Last year Northern Spirit was sitting in tenth position leading into Christmas and we made our run for the finals during a very hectic Christmas-New Year schedule.

Last year we came of age over the Christmas-New Year period with victories over Marconi, Perth, Sydney Olympic, Gippsland and Adelaide Sharks. Not only did it allow us to move into the top six for the first time but it also gave us the momentum to continue moving forward.

And that is exactly what is looming this year. It is no secret that we didn't start too well in our second year yet we didn't start very well last year either, but after getting a few wins on the board we gathered momentum and we swept all the way through to the semi-finals.

We have no doubt we can do that again but the next four matches will be the key to our chances of achieving what we set out to do at the start of the season - qualify for the playoffs!

Our next match is against Canberra in Canberra before we start a three match sequence at home, and aren't we happy about that, for two reasons. For football reasons it is always nice to play at home but over the Christmas-New Year period it is also good not to be too far away from our families.

Back to football. Northern



Spirit takes on Brisbane Strikers (January 2), Sydney United (January 7) and Perth Glory (January 14) in quick succession - all at North Sydney Oval and if we can get three good results we'll be well on our way.

It has been interesting that we have been written off in a lot of the mid-season reports but that suits us.

We know what we have to do to get back into the top six. We have to win a few more games and get some momentum. After we steady ourselves then we can start playing some good football, but as far as we are concerned it's results that count right now!

Finally, we'd like to wish all Inside Soccer readers a very Merry Christmas from everyone at Northern Spirit.

We hope everyone gets what he or she wants for Christmas and for Northern Spirit supporters there might be a few wins in the Christmas stocking.

Ian Crook
Northern Spirit
and England

Parra players help spread Christmas cheer for sick kids



As part of the club's community ethos, Parramatta Power recently visited the New Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Above is Power striker Daniel Kukucka with one of the sick kids

plus an actress from Home and Away.

The other Power player was Jacob Burns (pictured inset).

Good to see our NSL stars spreading some cheer.

*Pics by Melissa Muscat



GREG BLAKE

C7 SOCCER COMMENTATOR

E-mail: gblake@primus.com.au



You've got to be a little concerned about the future of a game which insists on publicly beating itself up on such a regular basis. As my editor, Aidan Ormond, mentioned recently, had you have been devouring the dailies for soccer news for most of last week there appeared to be an unhealthy preoccupation with THAT meeting in Sydney last weekend.

Fair enough, it was big news and the ramifications of the decisions taken last Saturday will ensure that it remains big news for some time to come. But it wasn't the only news of the week, even if it might have seemed otherwise. Giving the big-knob pow-wow almost blanket coverage did a huge disservice to the punters who still want to know something about the actual games themselves.

Remember, this was a weekend in which Newcastle, coming off three straight wins, hosted red-hot Perth Glory, Northern Spirit and Adelaide Force faced off in their own mini elimination match, Brisbane traveled to play an Olympic team just seven days after the latter had pinched top spot from the Strikers and fast-fading South Melbourne were matched against local rivals Carlton.

We receive so little media space anyway, and at the end of the day the actual footy is still the main item on the menu.

While on the subject, the manner of some of the coverage leading into Saturday's Soccer Australia meeting left plenty to be desired. And we're not talking mainstream sports writers here either; I'm aiming the cross-hairs directly at one or two of the devoted soccer reporters at a couple of the large circulation dailies here.

Clearly with no sense of obligation to the game itself, some of the coverage leading up to Saturday's meeting was as bleak and savage as anything we might otherwise dismiss for its anti-soccer bias.

Some of the coverage was so irresponsibly unbalanced, once again making it appear that soccer in this country is a haven for circus clowns.

Long-time media colleague and all-round sports nut, Arthur Higgins, called me last Friday to ask if I might file some soccer reports over summer during his drive-time spot on Melbourne radio station, 3AK.

Higgins is no mug and a lifelong devotee of the world game. But his first words were: "Well, it looks as if the game is tearing itself to bits again, so you'll have plenty to talk about."

Higgins' insights were gleaned purely through daily press reports. Now, I personally believe that the decision to reduce the size of the league is an exceptionally crappy one. And the concept of a second division is equally as stupid and destined for a two to three-year lifespan at best, if it is sustainable at all. Why?

From which end of the list do you want me to start? The point is that my opinions are purely personal ones and no more or less valid than those of anyone who reads this column or stands on the terraces every weekend.

To read some of the axe-grinding rubbish thinly disguised as news reporting last week churns my guts. Surely the perception of the game here is already bad enough without our own people sticking the knife in. Screw your bloody heads on straight.

Just for the record, if you think all of the above suggests that I'm a slack-jawed lackey for Soccer Australia, I'm not. The administration and organisation of the game in this country - from SA itself and down through every state and club level - has just about always left plenty to be desired. That remains the case.

Recent defections from the game - be they for better or worse - haven't helped the public perception that the game is imploding again, either.

Ever-so-diplomatic Ned Coton tip-toed away from the regressive forces (geddit?) at Adelaide City and has landed a gig back in basketball, as chief executive of Melbourne NBL franchise Victoria Titans.

But former Sydney Olympic GM, Frank Martin, didn't pull any punches with his opinions on the game, suggesting that Olympic didn't deserve its place in the league and that Soccer Australia had no direction.

It's easy to criticise after the event, but it makes you wonder why Martin didn't address such concerns while he was earning a quid out of the game.

On a lighter note, it's 'Hanging Judges' time, when we update the referees leading the red card pack throughout the season. After the opening eleven rounds of the season we now have a four-way tie between Mark Shield, Derek Rugg, Matthew Breeze and Con Diomis, each of whom has five victims thus far in 1999/2000. Daily with them at your own peril.

Finally, some recent public acknowledgment that there are some potentially long-term problems likely if the current red and yellow card count continues to rise to the general confusion of all concerned.

According to NSL manager Stephan Kamasz the red card count "appears abnormally high" and that he will facilitate a mid-season conference between refereeing boss, Gary Power, the coaches and a clutch of leading referees.

"I'm concerned at the number of red and yellow cards," Kamasz was quoted as saying last week. "I think it's a good idea to have a meeting of all concerned." Not before time either, with resentment brewing from all quarters.



Like most coaches, Newcastle's Lee Sterrey (left) likes to give very little (of value, anyway) away. But the Breakers

boss has revealed his tip for the 1999/2000 NSL title.

He gave the caper away in a conversation in the days leading up to last Friday's headline clash between Newcastle and Perth Glory at Breakers Stadium. "And we are playing the champions this week," Sterrey blurted out before the predictable 'whoops, what have I said' type pause.

Sorry Lee, I just couldn't quite remember if we said it was on or off the record.

It hasn't taken long for the vultures to re-settle back high in the rafters of the 'Mark Viduka Stand' at Knight Stadium.

After going 2-0-0 in his first two games at the Knights questions are already being asked about the 'no-compromise, blood and thunder' methods of new boss Vlado Vanis in the wake of the club's eleventh round loss at home to Northern Spirit.

And from those pretty damned close to the club as well. Obviously no names, no pack drill, but one Knights insider believes Vanis' "emotive coaching" will have a limited life span. "You can get the players up emotionally for a time, but eventually the lack of quality players will still tell on you," he said.

"And you can't keep making decisions and not explain them to the players because inevitably you start to lose their support."

I'm not sure if the informant is on the money, but it sure hasn't taken much for Vanis' star to lose its lustre.

S-NEWS

INSIDE SOCCER'S
AUSTRALIAN
NEWS AND GOSS

BRANKO THE MOVIE BUFF

Not content with coaching his side to the top of the ladder, the urbane Branko Culina of Sydney Olympic is also now S-news' unofficial movie historian. Last week we mentioned that David Mitchell was referred to in an SBS movie. Turns out Aurelio Vidmar was also mentioned in the same movie. Thanks Branko for picking that one up, and sorry Aurelio.

SPROD SAYS 'WE LET OURSELVES DOWN' AGAINST GLORY

These days Newy Breakers have their sights set high. They want to win and win well, that's why attacking midfielder turned defender Glenn Sprod said after the game the side "let themselves down" by allowing the Glory back into the game when they should have kept their foot on the accelerator. Breakers of course ended up winning ... again. That's four on the trot but we shouldn't be surprised, Glory just can't seem to win against Newcastle. Still on Glory and coach Stange thought his players did not have the right boots for the game; they should have had long studs. "I can't look in their bags to check, they are professionals, they should know" he said to an insider. And forget the batphone, try the Gloryphone. The club has launched its own mobile phone. It is based on their Kappa kit design. And can anyone confirm the rumour that when SocOz sent the NSL criteria for next season, the envelope sent to Perth was empty?

STATE OF ORIGIN SOCCER?

How about this for an idea. A tri-state made for TV tournament called State of Origin: Soccer. Vic, NSW and QLD against each other to commemorate the centenary of Federation played in about 12 months. You heard it here first. Speaking of TV, all of

South's games plus the final will be shown on SBS. The tournament runs between 5-14 January. Take a bow SBS.

IVO DE JESUS GET IT RIGHT!

Mrs De Jesus apparently received about ten phone calls after a recent Cosmos game on ABC Soccer. The commentators were using the Portuguese pronunciation of Ivo De Jesus, as in Day Ja-Zuz. It's nothing of the sort, as the player himself told them. It's de Jesus as in Jesus Christ Superstar. Speaking of TV crews, a certain Channel Ten reporter camped out all day at Sydney Airport Hilton to speak to those in 'that' meeting on Saturday. He was ropable that he had to wait from 9.30 until 3pm before he could speak to someone. He stormed off in a hissy fit after getting a few words from one of them, muttering under his breath something about soccer. Poor daaaaahling.

OZSOCCER LIST XMAS PARTY

For those of you who haven't lurked or even contributed to, the ozsoccer chatlist can get a little fiery at times (they know who they are). But they will be putting down their metaphors, barbs and acidic commentary to have a bit of Chrissy party this Thursday in Sydney at Woolwich Pier Hotel, Gale St Woolwich (beer garden 6pm is meeting spot.) Ferry from the city can be taken to the venue that his great views we are told.

BIG SHOW AT FALCONS

Not content with playing football at Mobil Park, they will host the national tattoo. Plus on Australia Falcons host 'The Australia Day Family Day', plus there is Tabaret and a big live concert after the game. The match will be played at 6pm against Power and the concert will be on the park after the game with a massive stage being erected. The headline acts can't be confirmed but they will be big.

ROBERT BUSTOS SOUTH AMERICAN SKILLS TO RETURN?

By Aidan Ormond

When we talk about marketing of the game I know one thing for sure: our NSL could use more players with a Jogo Bonito or 'Beautiful Football' upbringing. Mendez and Cardozo at Olympic, Moreira at Carlton and Muniz and Crino from years gone by have all thrilled fans here with that South American panache.

If we are lucky there may be another Aussie to play NSL who is imbued with that crowd-pulling football élan.

to fans around Australia, outside of a small number of NSW Super League fans who may remember him as a precocious teenager.

"He was clearly an outstanding prospect when I saw him three years ago in the Super League with Stanmore Hawks," said Super Soccer writer Paul Goodwin.

"And he's got a good attitude with natural talent," he added.

Bustos, with his Argentine heritage (his father and grandfather played there) was born here but was obsessed with Argentine football. In the mid-nineties the moribund nature



Nueva Chicago with Aussie Robert Bustos (front row second from right).

Robert Bustos, 21, currently with Argentine second division side Nueva Chicago, is back in Sydney for Christmas after three years in Argentina.

The right-sided attacking midfielder has six months left on his contract after which he hopes to be "back home" and playing with a side here.

He is the first Aussie ever to play in Argentina.

The name may not mean much

of an NSL yet to see Glory or Spirit, pushed him towards trying his luck in his family's home country.

"It was always a dream for me to play in Argentina, particularly with Boca," explained Bustos.

"I went over at 18, and lived by myself while playing for a small club in Mendoza (Independiente Rivadavia).

CONTINUED PAGE 22

Inside Soccer staff the real stars

Allow me dear readers this one indulgence. It is, after all, Christmas time. It would be remiss of me not to take this time to say a genuine thank you on behalf of John and myself to what we call the best team in Australia. That team is the one that contributes match reports, articles, news, columns and the odd 'inside story' on what is happening around Australian soccer.

Firstly, in Melbourne there is Greg Blake - one of Australian soccer's gems and a real character. Ralph Barba from our 'new signings' the Four Diegos is always good value, as is Studs Up editor Kevin Christopher. Alan Clark does a great job as does 'Mr Enthusiasm', Mark Fisher. Thanks also go to Patrick Mangan, Daniela Raco, Michael Cronin and Matt Curtis for their pics, Sally Orpin at 'My Blue Heaven', and of course Roy Hay for his devotion to the NYL (where would its coverage be without him?), Cherlye Martin and the NYL South coverage team.

In Gippsland a good new writer has emerged called Lucio Viggiano. Thanks also to Tom Anderson (not the older Scottish geezer!)

Over in Adelaide the team from Coast FM have been great, particularly Margaret Bowden and Donald Campbell.

Way out West another fun soccer show is Heritage FM's NSL show, featuring Dennis Gedling, Jack Warner and co. Cheers guys for your help. Thanks also to Brett Kluznick for the pics.

Cameron Atfield in Brisbane has done a mighty job of reporting, as has Michael Kmet from Newcastle. A special thanks also goes to Chris and his wife '????' Dunkerley in Newy and all the Bill Turner Cup folks.

In New Zealand a huge thanks to the talented Jeremy Ruane (see you in Melbourne soon?) and 'Mr Soccer' Grant Stantiall. Bruce Holloway from Sitter! (a super fanzine) and in

fact all at that great read, thank you. Colin Chin, we haven't forgotten you, and 'Sergiboy' from the Kingz has been his usual helpful and 'entertaining'(!) self.

In Wollongong the one and only Stephen Webb has done a tremendous job of covering games there and in Sydney.

Cheers to Dylan Durie, Richard Beazley and the indefatigable Nick Guoth in Canberra, with a big salute to Nick for his coverage of the Joeys this year. Superb stuff.

Sydney, IS's home ground, is where we should thank Paul Goodwin, 'Big' Ben Cubby, Melissa Muscat (last seen at Buonavoglia's on Ramsay), Greg Stock, Joe Palos for the pics, Mark 'Bradford' Fowler, Bonnie M at the NSW Fed, Roger Sleeman for being, well, Roger Sleeman, Craig Wilson, Theo Katsaros, Stella Bouzani, NYL North coverage team and Anissa Tann-Darby.

Overseas and thanks goes to all the fanzines, particularly Peter Daykin from Sunderland Football Club (my team!)

And finally thanks to all the Whispering Jacks and Jackies who have given us the good information to go on (and the occasional dodgy one but we won't mention who!!) without being able to reveal themselves. So to all 'sources' 'deep throats' and 'insiders' a big grazie tanto.

To all the players, coaches, administrators, media managers, receptionists and fans who make it easy for us to do our job, at club, state and national level (that includes Soccer Australia!), and finally to our readers, whose excellent taste we will always appreciate.

Merry Christmas to all and I hope I have not forgotten anyone. If I did, please forgive me. Take care and we will see you in the new millennium.

Aidan Ormond
Editor, Inside Soccer

Ram

HIGH QUALITY SOCCER PRODUCTS

Official Ball Licencee of Soccer NSW
Official Ball Supplier to the Australian Women's Soccer Association
FIFA approved & FIFA inspected
Match Balls



The Australian
Owned
Sports Brand



TRADE INQUIRIES ...

(02) 9826 7033

NSW SUPER LEAGUE 2000

Greg Stock takes the first of a two-part look at what is happening in the lead-up to the next month's kick off

Progressive Super League club Eastern Suburbs Wanderers held their pre-season launch at the Kensington Bowling Club last Wednesday evening.

In announcing the squad and his coaching staff for the 2000 season, Easts coach John Callega emphasised that eleven of his first grade squad have all come from the junior structure in the Easts district.

"We've assembled a strong team and a lot of the lads have all grown up in the area so for them it's like a home coming."

Two of the Wanderers star recruits are David Segreto who returns from Ryde City, along with livewire midfielder Craig Sharpley.

Both players are residents of the district and are looking forward to returning to the area that gave them their first taste of football.

"I've been back and forward three times to this club, but they always seem to take me back" quipped Segreto.

"It's not far to go to training or the games and the mood and the professionalism around the club is excellent."

Joining Segreto and Sharpley will be a number of high profile Super League players whom Callega has recruited to strengthen some key areas.

Enigmatic striker Jimmy Aschner makes the move to Easts after an injury prone season at Macarthur, where he netted only three goals in eight appearances.

Aschner broke his leg at the beginning of last season and struggled to make an impact with the Rams but looks set to re-establish himself in 2000 as one of the premier strikers.

Joining Aschner up front will be a former German second division player, Talat Kice.

Having just arrived in Australia a matter of weeks ago Kice is still coming to terms with the climate and the language of his new country, but so far the Easts coaching staff have been impressed with his training and commitment in the trial games.

In defence former Easts player



Powerhouse NSW Super League side Blacktown City Demons: last season's champions.

Mathew Dihm returns after a year long lay off. Dihm will be partnered by ex Canterbury stopper Matthew Shepherd, who along with David Segreto will form a highly experienced backline.

Utility player Ben Dinghan has also joined the Easts ranks from Canberra Deakin as has 'pocket rocket' John Pillemer from Leichhardt Tigers.

Leo Premutco has also been signed to bolster the goal-keeping ranks following the departure of Uniroo Adam Mark to the University of N.S.W.

It's a squad that John Callega predicts will be competitive, though he is not getting carried away yet.

"Morale is great and we are training very hard, but it's a long season and I'm not going to get carried away with bold predictions just yet" he said.

"We will be very competitive I can assure you of that".

Along with the recruitment of some name players for their first grade squad the Wanderers have also announced a partnership with the Kensington Bowling Club, that will offer the club a long-term financial future.

"It gives us a place to call home and somewhere for the club supporters and players to go after the game" says club publicity officer Peter Chiarello. "We have three directors on the board alongside the three from bowling club, and that has been confirmed."

It's an exciting time for the district based Super League club which, despite their poor showing in last year's Super League, intends to really promote their team as the face of soccer in the eastern suburbs of Sydney.

With some key support for the Easts junior association there appears little doubt that the progressive club is on the way up.

In other Super League news the mad race to sign players has begun in earnest with the season kick-off only weeks away. With Christmas and New Year falling in the midst of the lead up to the January 8th kick-off, many clubs have already settled on their final squad.

Leading the race for signatures has been the Leichhardt Tigers, who under new coach Les DeCelis have assembled a high profile squad.

Joining the club will be Zoki Adioski from Bankstown City, Joe Bruni from Marconi and former Northern Spirit youth team player James Stubbs-Mills.

It seems that scoring goals will be

the order of the day at Lambert Park with Adioski and Bruni joining a forward line which already boasts club captain Steve Karavatakis (formerly of Sydney Olympic) and Chris Lansdown.

Following DeCelis over from the relegated Ryde City are Andrew Nicol, Andrew Nolan and Greg Fuchs who give the side a real 'Ryde flavour', while ex Canterbury midfielder Jane Talceviski joins his brother Mite in the Tigers den.

Over at Melita Stadium Eagles coach Roberto Veira has snared former Wolves striker Nikolce Joseski to cover for the departure of Grant Bard.

Joseski who spent the majority of 1999 recovering from a leg injury has been training the house down according to Veira.

"He is a different type of player (to Bard) but he will be very good for the young players and his attitude is excellent."

Joining Joseski will be Alex Trposki from Bankstown City, Tom Bazdaric from Leichhardt and experienced utility Scott Xuereb from Bonnyrigg.

At Gabbie Stadium, Blacktown, under the guidance of coach Brian 'Bomber' Brown, has made some prudent buys to strengthen a few key losses.

With Jon Angelucci and Steve Berry heading to Parramatta Power, the club has recruited former Bonnyrigg duo Paul Richardson and Paul Dee.

Most fans Dee will remember for his stints with NSL clubs Marconi, Wollongong and Canberra.

Up front former Marconi youth player Mark Hagger (left) has signed as has former Eastern Suburbs midfielder Naoki Imaiya.

It's another strong side at the Gabbie and one that will again challenge strongly for the top prize.

More news on the NSW Super League next week.



AMEX CARD TO HELP FUND GAME'S DEVELOPMENT

The NSW Soccer Federation and American Express have kicked off a new program for supporters - the NSW Soccer American Express Credit Card.

Every time Card members use the NSW Soccer American Express Credit Card, a portion of their spend is donated directly to NSW Soccer, to assist their development programs for males and females.

NSW Fed's Peter Thorne said: "The revenue generated as a result of soccer fans and supporters using the Card will go towards supporting the training and skills development of talented young men and women players."

Thorne added that this, in turn, helps Australia's efforts on the international football stage.



"NSW players are always well-represented in national teams - whether they be the Joeys, the Young Socceroos, the Olyroos, the Socceroos or the Matildas."

"We see it as a responsibility to produce world-class players for New South Wales and Australia. It is one we take very seriously and it is one of our top priorities as a Federation."

Thorne said that what's good for New South Wales soccer is good for Australian soccer, and vice-versa.

"We're a big State with the largest number of players, so we have to play our part. On the other hand, success in our national teams is also an important component of growth and development at grass roots level, which is critical to the ongoing success and prominence of the game in Australia."

Supporters who take up the NSW Soccer American Express card will benefit in other ways too.

A spokeswoman for American Express said that there is no annual Card membership fee for the first year.

"For the first six months, members can also take advantage of an 8.95% p.a

introductory interest rate by transferring balances from higher-rate credit cards to their NSW Soccer American Express Card."

Mr Barry Arnold, Senior Vice President Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific, American Express International said, "We believe American Express offers the best affinity card program in Australia and we look forward to providing soccer supporters and fans with the superior benefits and service for which we are known for."

In other news, NSW Federation has just signed up Sapphire Technology, an international IT recruitment company, as sponsor of its state teams (boys and girls). It will also sponsor the NSW Sapphires, the state's successful women's side.

David Mitchell recently spoke about his admiration for local-based NSL players. In particular, the Socceroo currently coaching Power paid tribute to those who combine their, not insignificant, soccer commitments with full-time work or study. Mitchell felt they deserved more plaudits for their work ethic and commitment, one which takes a toll not only on their bodies, but their whole life.

Velimir Kupresak, the Sydney United stalwart, recently bemoaned his full-time work (as a painter) with his heavy training schedule, saying "I work, train and sleep!" No wonder his wife Zlata wants this to be his last season.

Mark Babic is one player who understands this type of heavy schedule. He has spent the last three years juggling his life as a full-time student with a football schedule, a schedule that has also included some national team games.

Just a couple of weeks ago the big Marconi central defender finally completed an undergraduate degree in Rehabilitation Counselling from Sydney University. He is adamant that the sacrifice was worth it.

"I think it (finishing the degree) was more relief than anything else ... I've put a few years in so to finally be able to say 'I've done it' is a wonderful feeling of accomplishment. Even my Marconi teammates congratulated me when I told them it was completed.

"Rehab counselling involves working within rehab areas such as mental health, sexuality, vocational, drug and alcohol. The area I would like to possibly pursue would be community health, such as a district officer.

"I am sort of weighing it up at the moment but it does give me time to pursue soccer fully for the moment. I am just relaxing after the end of the degree ... I'll give myself a bit of time before I decide," said Babic last week.

Babic, who grew up in that soccer hotbed of the St George district, feels that his education has been a journey of self-discovery, one that can benefit a footballer's mental toughness.

"I don't think people out there realize how demanding it is to not only do a degree, but combine it with the physical nature of training and playing.

"Time management is very important when you have these two commitments. Overall I think it builds character. It's important to you as a person and a footballer. The most rewarding thing was self-discovery and knowing that I could actually do this.

"I think it's true that I have also become mature as a footballer. You become so determined and perhaps if some of the younger players can see this it may help them in their life.

"You can do it, I am proof. A lot of players may think they can't do it, but if you dedicate yourself and are willing to put in the hard hours.

"Like I said, if you can manage your time that is key.

"Also if you can have a day or an afternoon off completely away from study and football that is very important in your weekly routine, because it's so exhausting mentally and physically doing both.

"So without sounding too much like a role model, don't throw away your schooling because you can still have your soccer," was his advice to younger players thinking of tertiary education."

Babic however was quick to dismiss the thought that he was to be addressed as Dr Babic. "I wouldn't go that far!"

Although it was Babic who did all the hard work, his club Marconi deserves credit too for encouraging his commitments to study and for being flexible when needed. The ideal employer really.

However it was inevitable that the two worlds of study and soccer would eventually collide; just ask Terry Venables. Babic takes up the story.

"It was during the first weeks Terry had the Socceroos during the Optus Cup in 1997. I had an exam in the morning so I sidled up to Venables and asked him if I could possibly start training a bit later. He asked why and I told him. He just stopped for a few seconds and looked up at me with this incredulous look of stunned disbelief.

"I guess he had no idea that international would also be studying at Uni. You have to remember just nine months before



Educating BABIC

What many fans may not realize is that Marconi's Mark Babic has finally finished his University degree - a career in Rehabilitation Counselling is now on the cards for the graduate. And as Babic told Aidan Ormond the last three years of his life have been full of sacrifice and struggle, but it's all been worth it for the Socceroo ...

he was coaching England at Euro '96. The look on his face was just incredible. He was fine with it anyway and we won the tournament so it all worked out in the end."

Babic has represented Australia at every level, from Joeys to Socceroos, although surprisingly he was not called in to the Australian University side (the Unirooms) that played in the world championships in Spain in early July.

The defensive pairing of Glory's Jamie Harnwell with Babic may have shored up what turned out to be a leaky defence.

"It would have been a great trip. I

guess they probably didn't know me.

"But going back to the Venables era, it was exciting because everyone knew about Terry's previous record, that he had coached at international level as well as clubs like Barcelona. He made everyone feel relaxed and focussed. I think it's a sign of a good coach that the team enjoyed itself when it was playing.

"It was a tactical situation, he wanted us to play a certain way. We were mobile for sure and we scored goals with ease."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

Want to win a signed copy of Robbie Slater's book 'The Hard Way'?

Answer this question, cut the ad out and send to PO BOX 3889

PARRAMATTA NSW 2124. First correct answer drawn Dec 27. Winner

published Dec 28 issue. The more entries the better chance you have (no photocopies accepted.)

Name two overseas clubs

Robbie has played for.

Answer:

1:

2:



NAME:

ADDRESS:

AUSSIES on the world stage

A round-up of how our Aussies players fared abroad in this last week ...



Another subs appearance for Paul Agostino.

Yet another mixed week for our Aussie boys abroad as thoughts turned to a sunny Australia while they freeze in the Euro winter.

Midweek in England and Queenslander Jason Kearton was in goals again for Crewe in the first division as they played, and beat, Wolverhampton Wanderers 1-0.

Another Queenslander, Steve Corica, sat on the bench for the entire game for Wolves but Kevin 'The Assassin' Muscat had a full 90 minutes in this match played in front of just over 6,000 fans in Crewe.

In another midweek encounter Jason Van Blerk had a full game for West Brom as his side drew 1-1 with Grimsby Town in Grimsby in front of just over 4,000 specta-

tors. On the bench for the Baggies was another Aussie Andrew McDermott who did not make an appearance.

A few days later in the league Wolves played against Birmingham City. Wolves won 2-1 with Muscat again playing a full game and Corica sitting on the bench, with no game time.

City's Stan Lazaridis was not on the team sheet with injury still keeping him out.

In the same round in the Nationwide Division One, Palace drew with Fulham in the London derby. Lismore-born Craig Foster had a full game but Olyroo Nick Rizzo sat on the bench and did not get on. A crowd of 17,480 saw this game.

West Brom lost 3-1 away in East Anglia against Ipswich, Andy McDermott was a second half sub, as was dynamic Danny Tiatto in Man City's 3-0 home win over Swindon. A great crowd of 31,000 saw the 'second' Manchester team.

Also in that West Brom game, Jason Van Blerk played a full game but was booked.

Jason Kearton played 90 minutes in goal at Nottingham Forest but let the only goal of the game in after 75 minutes.

Portsmouth drew with Port Vale, with Mike Panopoulos - the Aussie who arrived from Greece this year - coming on for Pompey in the 72nd minute.

Andy Petterson sat on the bench for the game.

Sasa Ilic sat on the bench for Charlton as well, the Melbourne keeper has of course pledged his international allegiance to another country - in their game against QPR, which was a 0-0 draw.

In Nationwide Division Two, on Saturday Millwall beat Notts County 1-0 in London, with Lucas Neill and Tim Cahill each playing a full game in front of over

7,000 fans.

Over in Reading, Andy Bernal had 90 minutes in the 2-2 draw with Wrexham (a club recent visitor Ian Rush was player/coach with at the start of 1999).

In the Worthington Cup quarter finals, Mark Schwarzer played in the shock 2-1 loss away to Tranmere while sometime Socceroo Harry Kewell played all the game in their loss on penalties to Leicester.

Kewell had a few chances in what was a blood and guts affair, but all to no avail as the Filbert Street side booked their spot in the semis.

In the Premier League the Aussies had a mixed weekend with both Schwarzer and Kewell being part of winning teams while Richard Johnson's team took another hammering.

Watford was beaten 1-3 at home to Everton placing the team deep into relegation zone. They are currently in second-last spot-five points ahead of the last team Sheffield Wednesday but four points adrift of the team above them, Derby.

Schwarzer's Middlesbrough had a good 2-1 win over Tottenham - a win that puts them in a comfortable mid-table position on equal footing with the team they beat on the weekend, in equal seventh position.



Josip Simunic...on the move from Hamburg to Hertha Berlin.

Kewell and his marauding fellow youngsters continue to defy the critics by sitting on top of the Premier League after a 0-2 away win over one of the early season title favourites, Chelsea.

Kewell didn't score but was heavily involved in a key incident in the game. Frenchmen Frank Leboeuf fouled young Harry twice in the space of seven minutes and not satisfied with that promptly stomped on him after the second episode and was duly sent off.

Of the other Aussies in the Premier League both Mark Bosnich and John Aloisi are out of their teams, recovering from what seem to be long term injuries.

In Germany, Hertha Berlin drew 1-1 midweek with the outer Socceroo Ned Zelic's TSV 1860 Munchen. Zelic played a full game in what was a five-man midfield.

SSV Ulm beat VFL Wolfsburg 2-1 away with former Sydney United striker David Zridilic coming on as a second half sub.

On the weekend, Ned Zelic had another full game and Paul Agostino arrived as a second half sub for Winkler as Kaiserslautern, with Youri Djorkaeff, beat 1860 2-1 in Munich.

In the Italian Serie A Paul Okon remained on the bench as his team Fiorentina drew 1-1 at home.

Okon has not been able to crack an appearance for the Florence team since he made a couple starts and sub appearances prior to his arrival home for the Brazil tour.

In Serie B Marco Bresciano was again a starter for his team Empoli as they drew 1-1 at home. He was replaced with ten minutes to go but fellow Aussie Vince Grella was not included in the squad.

In the Croatian league Josip Skoko and Ante Milicic are having well earned breaks as the league goes into its winter hibernation - not returning until the beginning of February.

Viduka's manager 'I didn't know'

John Barnes was kept in the dark by his own bosses over Celtic's secret talks to thrash out Mark Viduka's long-term future.

An embarrassed Celtic coach was forced on Friday to admit he knew nothing about Thursday's summit between the club and Viduka's agents after originally insisting that no meeting had taken place.

A delegation from the striker's sports management firm, IMG, including Australian agent Bernie Mandic, had jetted in for crunch discussions following interest in the 23-year-old from AS Roma and Lens.

But Barnes seemed to know nothing about the talks which could determine whether or not his star attacker stays at Parkhead.

When asked about the meeting Barnes said: "I don't think his agents have been here, in fact, if they were I would know and they haven't been here."

But when I informed the head coach that IMG's top brass had indeed spent Thursday afternoon discussing Viduka's future with his bosses, Barnes looked to

PR chief Peter McLean for answers.

He said: "Were they really? Why didn't someone tell me that? Peter!"

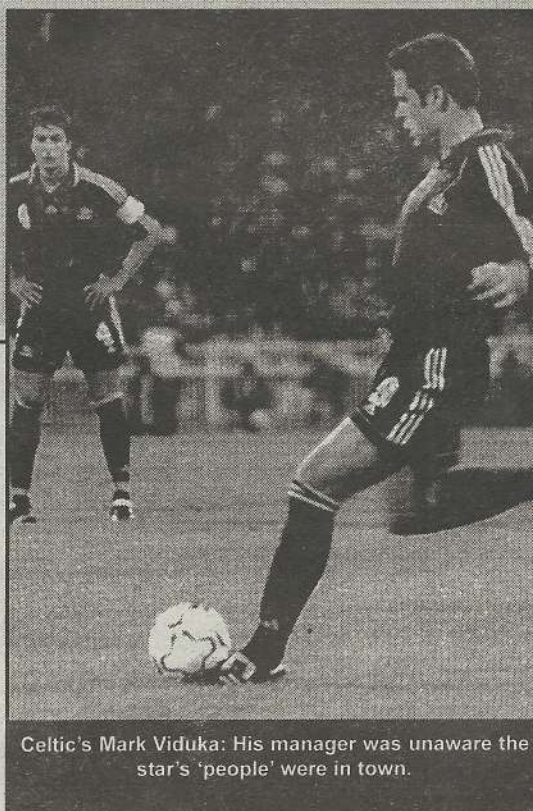
Barnes then attempted to play down the importance of the meeting, saying: "Well, maybe they were just here to visit."

"Mark has three years left on his contract and we are happy with him. I don't want to see Mark going anywhere, I'll have to find out what his agents were doing here, but there is no suggestion of Mark going anywhere."

"As far as I'm concerned Mark is happy here as he has said himself, he's delighted to be here and he wants to stay at Celtic. That's the end of the matter."

The news that Barnes is not being briefed on such vital team matters is likely to disturb Celtic's supporters who have rallied behind the head coach after a recent upsurge in form.

Viduka's agent Mandic says the man in the know at Celtic Park is the faceless



Celtic's Mark Viduka: His manager was unaware the star's 'people' were in town.

Jim Hone - a former British Aerospace colleague of chief executive Allan MacDonald.

Mandic said: "I've no comment to make about the meeting. If you have anything to ask about Mark Viduka's situation then you should speak to Mr Hone."

The Four Diegos with **George Negus**



This week on Guest of the Week we have a former Soccer Australia commissioner turned Four Diegos foreign correspondent.

Please, a big Four Diegos and Inside Soccer welcome to our man in Italy - George Negus.

Diegos: Tuscany is currently your adopted home where you live a life of indulgence, sampling the wine, pasta, architecture and footy.

Your sons - Ned and Serge - are the youngest Aussies abroad on Soccer Australia's books. How do the locals cope with a tweed jacketed, moustachioed Aussie bloke who hurls good ol' Aussie homespun abuse at junior games every weekend?

Negus: Very quiet. I'm very quiet on the sidelines. Italians are very sophisticated soccer people and they wouldn't take too kindly to a yahoo from Australia carrying on like a 'Good Thing'.

My kids have had a ball. It's quite amazing the difference even in kids' soccer standards between the countries. I

The Diegos know that you too are a champion for all three activities and that you have also become a staunch supporter of Paul Okon's Fiorentina club.

It's clearly more than a game in the country. Tell us about the ritual of match day in Florence?

Negus: You guys coming from Melbourne would know the almost religious rituals involved with Aussie Rules. If you can multiply the fanaticism of a Collingwood supporter by one hundred, you get fairly close to what a Fiorentina fan is like.

My kids live for the Fiorentina matches. They wouldn't be seen dead with the 'toffs' in the stands so we go to an area behind the goals, three hours before the game so they can get the same seat every week and sit with their Italian mates.

They surround us with their bread and salami and whatever else they've got shoved down their pockets and the atmosphere is quite amazing.

Soccer in this country is part of every supporter's essence; it's part of their being. It's not a case of soccer just being a sport; it's an essential part of their existence.

Our blokes have become part of that. They have got their 'Viola' scarves, beanies, jackets, t-shirts and key rings. It's wonderful stuff.

Diegos: Okon captained the Socceroos superbly in a recent match against the touring Brazilians at the MCG, yet still seems to be a perennial substitute at Fiorentina.

You are a renowned righter of wrongs and pursuer of the world's injustices. Have you thought about grilling Fiorentina coach, Giovanni Trapattoni, '60 minutes' style to find out what the real story is?

Negus: I think that he's off his head! I just think that he is completely wrong but far be it from me to argue with the 'Trap'.

I think Paul Okon in the side would make Fiorentina a better team. I watched Paul play a couple of times in warm up matches earlier in the season and each time he comes on off the bench the team has settled down.

A bloke like Okon can bring the team back to earth and give them shape when he is playing.

Yes I think the coach is wrong leaving Paul out of the side but having said that, all my Italian mates believe that although Paul is a fine player, once he has been as badly injured as he has there's no coming back.

So the conventional wisdom here is that Paul is not fit enough to play 90 full minutes of soccer. What I think Trapattoni is doing wrong by Paul is that he is not giving him a chance to prove otherwise."

Diegos: For you a 'Club v Country' issue is the choice between

sipping a short black at the local café club or picnicking under the Tuscan sun in the country.

For us on the other hand, it's whether Leeds United will allow Harry Kewell to play for the Socceroos.

What's your view on the whole saga and does the fact that Ronaldo experienced similar problems with Inter Milan put the whole issue into clearer perspective?"

Negus: No it doesn't. It's a bloody mess, to be honest. I don't know that it's whether Leeds United will let Harry Kewell play for Australia or whether Harry Kewell wants to play for Australia. I think the crux of the matter is that someone has got to sit down with Harry and work out something with him.

It's not easy. It's very hard when your dealing with a kid who is making as much money as Harry is. He is at the top level, and make no mistake, he is huge overseas. I witnessed it for myself recently when I was in London.

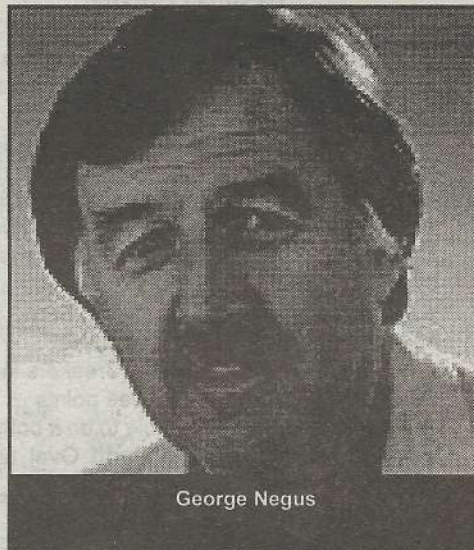
Harry is gigantic. He is regarded as one of the finest young players playing in the premier league in England. I think Harry has got to work out in his own mind what he wants.

At the moment I don't think that the advice that he is getting suggests to him that Australia even counts in his way of thinking. I think Frank Farina and Soccer Australia are going to have a lot of trouble getting Harry to play when they want him to play. It's very hard to even get to talk to Harry at the moment.

He is surrounded by the big time, he is not being handled very well and he is not being given very good advice. He is still young even though he is enormously talented.

He is clearly going to be one of the greatest players in the world and it's very hard to convince a kid in that situation that playing for Australia counts for much."

Diegos: South Melbourne is about to embark on the biggest task ever confronted by an Australian club side, the World



George Negus

Club championship in Rio. One of their opponents is a team you recently saw get beaten by Fiorentina 2-0 in the Champions league - Manchester United. Any tips for Ange Postecoglou?

Negus: They're clearly beatable. The thing that we loved about the game when Fiorentina beat Manchester United was that our team won but Mark Bosnich played well.

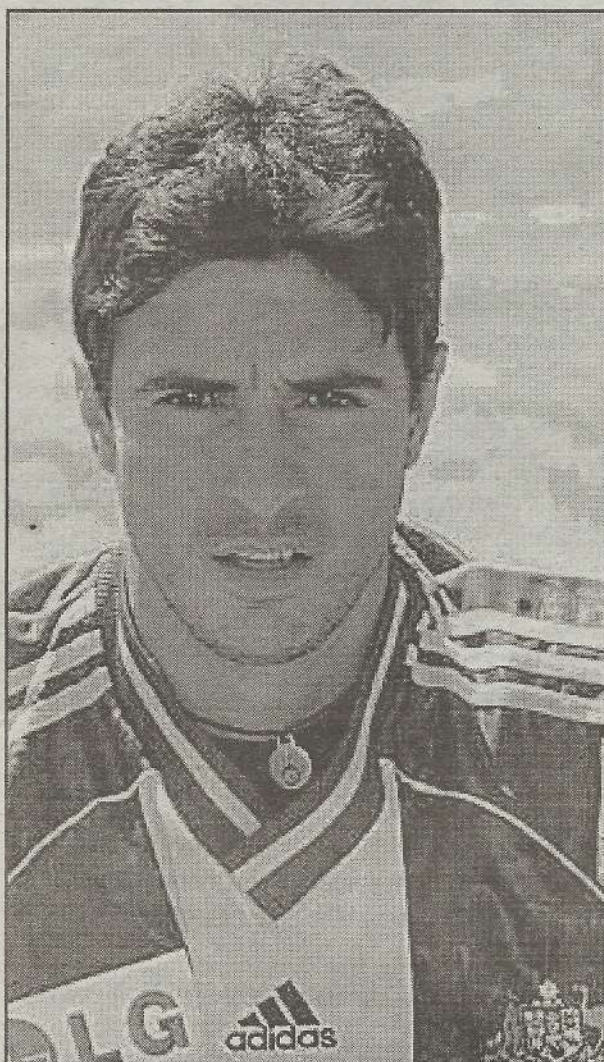
I think Manchester United are beatable and at times they are shaky down back.

Perhaps I'm being too optimistic. I guess I don't really know. If I were South Melbourne I'd be thankful that I was in the dam thing at all. What a wonderful thing for them to be playing in a World Club Championship and I wish them well."

Diegos: Thanks Georgio. We hope that you continue to enjoy your life of making love, watching football and arguing about politics. Adios Amigo!

Negus: Thanks Diegos. I don't know about making love... I guess at my age two out of three ain't bad.

Adios Diegos and Merry Christmas to your listeners in Melbourne and your readers in Inside Soccer around Australia.



Fiorentina's Paul Okon. A favourite of the Negus clan.

almost cried the first game one of my sons played, as he was warming up behind the goals at half time in a rain jacket.

I turned to his mother and said 'Look, look at that, he's warming up ready to come off the bench like a Serie A player'. It's almost like they treat their kids like adult footballers, which I know is both good and bad but for our boys, it's been a dream come true, pulling on pair of boots and playing in Italy with kids whose skills are amazing.

Diegos: Italians love their football - some say they love it just as much as making love and arguing about politics.



THE FOUR DIEGOS SOCCER SHOW

Stereo 974 FM in Melbourne

Sat 10am to midday

Every week a selection of Aussies abroad and the best of Australia

Back Jan 8!

And don't forget the Four Diegos

will have Age Soccer writer Michael Lynch's report
from the World Club Championships in Brazil.

A weekend when the real action TOOK A BACK SEAT

By Aidan Ormond

I reckon Christmas came early for a good number of soccer fans who watch NSL football.

Example number one: Friday night at Breakers Stadium. A five-goal goal (all in the first 45 as well) Round 12 beauty of an encounter, some truly quality goals (Despotovski and Bounavoglia to name just two) and a match up that is increasing in interest as the years go by purely because, as Glory supremo Bernd Stange said later, "We can't beat Newcastle!"

And he's right. When the Breakers lads see Perth on the fixture list they see points ... lots of 'em. And they seem to be able to do it both at the white-hot atmosphere of Perth Oval and the compact Breakers Stadium.

The return of febrile midfielder Troy Halpin was an interesting sub-plot to the overall story of this home victory. The skilful Halpin clearly enjoyed playing on his old ground - and scored a peach - yet it was the overall team effort of the Breakers (again) that got them through.

And I don't mind saying this: a successful Newcastle Breakers is good for the league.

And by the end of the season expect more than one club looking at some of the talented players down there who will be off contract. I can think of one already, can you?

Example two. Spirit v Force. I know the many Spirit fans would not want to even think about this catastrophe, but what a great story for the Force fans.

Three goals away from home is virtually unthinkable this campaign, but, as many have said, when 'Frogger' Mori is on form, City rocks and rolls.

Alex Tobin, speaking after the game, attributed the win to the sort of things Spirit coach Graham Arnold is hoping for, a team that "closed down well, always being at them, worked hard and defended like our lives depended on it."

Geez, you wonder why Force couldn't have

done that before?

Let's just hope the club can sort itself out. The resignation of CEO Ned Coten was a huge blow for those who are sick of myopic attitude of some trying to run the club.

Believe me, the players have told me the club has to change to survive. Coten was there to implement that idea but was not allowed to continue. Such a shame.

Example three: On the same night about three hours plane ride across the Tasman, the reinvigorated Kingz got an increase in home support from the surprisingly reluctant Auckland gallery when they entertained, and that's the key word, Melbourne Knights.

Some pretty ordinary defending aside, if you didn't know too much about the finer points of football you would have still walked away with that 'I'll be back' feeling after the six goal and two send-offs thriller.

You can't fault the Kingz this year, they have entertained. Another recent six-goal two send-off blockbuster against Wolves and a couple of fine away wins for their fans to watch live on Sky marks them down as must-see TV or as a live show.

Plus it's great to see one of the league's real characters, Marcus Stergiopoulos, show what he can do after an average start to the year. When his confidence is up 'Serg' can do anything.

And then there was the South v Carlton blockbuster in front of nearly 13,000 and the Power and Sydney United 'grudge' match (if you believe the press, the players just wanted three points.)

This game also was a record for one of the game's great servants, the almost superhuman Velimir Kupresak; 239 appearances equals the club record.

NSL meeting? What meeting?



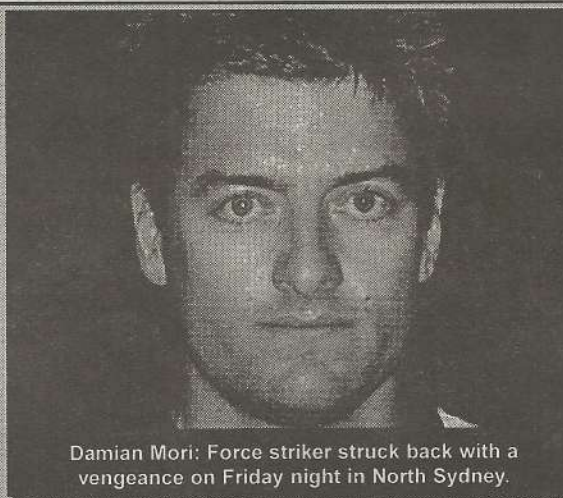
Reliable Newcastle Breakers defender Mark Wilson (white shirt). His side won their fourth game in a row last weekend and could well do one better than last season and make the Finals. Inset is former Breaker Troy Halpin, who returned to Newcastle with Glory.

NSL TOP SCORERS:

PAUL FOSTER
(Strikers) 9 goals
ALEX MOREIRA
(Carlton) 9 goals

JOHN BOUNAVOGLIA (NB) 7
MICHAEL CURCJA (SM) 7
SASHO PETROVSKI 7
JOEL GRIFFITHS (PP) 6
CON BOUTSIANIS (PG) 6

Cumulative attendances
after round twelve:
99/00: 521,008
98/99: 499,462



Damian Mori: Force striker struck back with a vengeance on Friday night in North Sydney.

CHRISTMAS QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Next year we should send the three points to Newcastle and have a training session in Perth and save the long, long journey. We can't beat Newcastle. I don't know why."

Glory coach Bernd Stange on their own little X-File.

"I dazzle in the fashion shops and on the park."

Cosmos' Harry James retorts to Ivo De Jesus' comments on his fashion sense.

"We have two playing systems and I just change the cattle to suit it."

Head drover at Newcastle Lee Sterrey. It wouldn't be quotes of the week without Lee now would it?

"If he (Ray Younis) wants to retaliate like that, he can go play pub soccer."

David Ratcliffe wasn't a happy man after the Power game. Neither was Ray.

	(Overall)							(Home)							(Away)						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L
Sydney Olympic	12	8	2	2	21	9	26	12	3	2	1	10	6	5	0	1	11	3			
Carlton	12	7	3	2	26	13	24	13	4	1	1	14	7	3	2	1	12	6			
Perth Glory	12	6	3	3	26	16	21	10	3	2	1	17	9	3	1	2	9	7			
Wollongong Wolves	12	6	3	3	23	17	21	6	4	0	2	11	7	2	3	1	12	10			
Brisbane Strikers	12	6	3	3	18	12	21	6	3	2	1	13	7	3	1	2	5	5			
Marconi Stallions	12	6	2	4	16	17	20	-1	3	0	2	4	7	3	2	2	12	10			
Newcastle Breakers	12	5	4	3	18	17	19	1	2	3	1	11	10	3	1	2	7	7			
Football Kingz	12	4	4	4	22	23	16	-1	1	3	2	10	14	3	1	2	12	9			
Parramatta Power	12	4	3	5	19	20	15	-1	2	3	2	10	9	2	0	3	9	11			
South Melbourne	12	4	2	6	19	20	14	-1	4	1	1	15	6	0	1	5	4	14			
Gippsland Falcons	12	3	4	5	8	13	13	-5	2	1	3	4	5	1	3	2	4	8			
Melbourne Knights	12	4	1	7	14	23	13	-9	3	0	3	6	6	1	1	4	8	17			
Northern Spirit	12	4	1	7	9	18	13	-9	2	0	3	4	8	2	1	4	5	10			
Canberra Cosmos	12	3	2	7	15	22	11	-7	2	1	4	9	8	1	1	3	6	14			
Adelaide Force	12	2	4	6	11	16	10	-5	1	2	2	6	7	1	2	4	5	9			
Sydney United	12	2	3	7	8	17	9	-9	2	1	4	5	8	0	2	3	3	9			

Produced with the assistance of McRopod Concept Sports Systems - www.planet.net.au/~mcropod.

Breakers' revival moves into top gear with Glory win



NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 3

Buonavoglia 19, Pryce 24, Dodds 44

PERTH GLORY 2

Despotovski 26, Halpin 34

Friday night at Breakers Stadium, Newcastle. Crowd: 4,127



Troy Halpin: the former Breaker had a good game for Glory, but Newcastle's revival continued on Friday night with a 3-2 win.

By Michael Kmet

The Breakers' juggernaut continued as they posted a 3-2 win over the unlucky Perth Glory, in an outstanding and exciting game of football last Friday night. This was Newcastle's fourth consecutive win, smashing a club record. Perth was chasing a record equalling five wins, but as was the case last season at Breakers Stadium, where they were looking for six consecutive wins, the same score line denied them.

Perth did not beat Newcastle last year and their overall record of two wins and four losses in six games against the Breakers is a poor one considering where the two sides have finished on the table in the last three seasons.

This led to Glory coach Bernd Stange to comment in the post-match press conference, "Next year we should send the three points to Newcastle and have a training session in Perth and save the long, long journey. We can't beat Newcastle. I don't know why."

This is a new Newcastle in the last four weeks. They are oozing confidence and their general play suggests a team that has enormous self belief in their ability to tackle any team in the league.

This self belief was evident from the first whistle where the Breakers were much more purposeful in their passing and actually had the better of possession in the first half. It was an amazing first half that left the crowd buzzing at the 3-2 score line.

If the first half was a goal-fest the second stanza did not live up to the first's action as the Breakers characteristically built their defensive brick wall and starved the Glory of goal scoring opportunities. The longer the game went on the less likely Perth were to score even though having most of the second half possession.

Midfielder Mark Wilson hit the post from ten metres in the 17th minute. The ball fell to Wilson's feet after a goal mouth scramble and a similar shot by Travis Dodd was blocked, but Wilson didn't have time and was too unbalanced to deliver an effective strike.

The Breakers' disappointment was short lived as they took the lead a minute

later. Skipper Shane Pryce won the ball on the right and played a wonderful through ball to the ever-eager Johnny Buonavoglia. Buonavoglia had acres of space to run down the right but the angle was always going to make the shot on goal difficult.

The right-footed Buonavoglia cleverly switched the ball to his left, where he had the greater angle, and rocketed his shot past Jason Petkovic just inside the right hand post.

Newcastle nearly went another goal ahead four minutes later when a Glenn Sprod cross found the head of Andy Harper. Harper just placed his header wide.

Further Newcastle's joy arrived in the 27th minute when referee Con Diomis judged Petkovic to have kicked outside the eighteen-yard box. Diomis was in good position to make this decision but television replays showed that he made the wrong call.

The ensuing free kick was driven low and hard by Shane Pryce and was deflected underneath the wall leaving Petkovic stranded. The Breakers were up 2-0 up.

Perth struck back four minutes later in spectacular fashion. Bobby Despotovski received a difficult ball outside the eighteen-yard box with his back towards goal. He brilliantly controlled and turned in one action evading marker Shane Pryce. On turning he sent a blistering drive crashing in the top left-hand corner net from twenty-two metres.

The Glory levelled the score line in the 38th minute when Troy Halpin took advantage of the Breakers' inability to clear the ball from their own penalty box. Newcastle had three opportunities to head the ball away, but each time the ball flew only a few metres.

The third header by Andy Roberts located Troy Halpin just outside the box. Halpin took the bouncing ball on his chest and half-volleyed into the top left hand corner.

The Glory should have hit the lead three minutes later when Con Diomis did not see a blatant handball by Brad Wieczorek in the Breakers' penalty area. The assistant referee had his flag up for about twenty seconds but inexplicitly lowered it and play was left to continue.

Coach Lee Sterrey later admitted that he saw the handball from the substitute's bench and could not understand how Diomis did not pick it up.

The first half action just got better when Diomis awarded a spot kick to the Breakers in the 45th minute. Jamie Harnwell clumsily challenged Johnny Buonavoglia and the ref had no hesitation in awarding the penalty.

Replays suggest, however, that the foul occurred outside the area. Harnwell's protest earned him a yellow card for dissent.

However, as Shane Pryce did weeks before against Marconi, he weakly shot his penalty to Petkovic's left, who embraced the ball and his relieved team mates.

The first half was not over when seven minutes into injury time the Breakers again went ahead. The resurgent Andy Harper stole the ball from Gareth Naven on the left. Harper hit the

touchline, cut in, and put through an excellent low cross to Travis Dodd who made no mistake from the relatively easy opportunity.

It was incredible that Diomis judged seven minutes of injury time when the fourth official only showed three.

As is the Breakers' style they closed shop in the second half to show strength and character for a remarkable win. Perth's only real chance of equalising came in the 59th minute when Con Boutsianis connected on off a far post corner by Troy Halpin.

Bob Catlin brilliantly saved his header.

As has been the case all season Newcastle coach Lee Sterrey played down the result. Sterrey and his team must be happy to go through the season quietly as underdogs, and not have other teams take their finals' aspirations seriously.

This has been Sterrey's tactic for the last two seasons and it has worked well for him and the Breakers.

Sterrey played true to form by saying, "All in all I think we got lucky tonight. They are a great football side. They will always make chances and we will always get players behind the ball. Most teams would find it difficult to get two goals back from us... I'm ecstatic about the performance against a side of quality. They're still a chance for me of winning the championship, they're still my favourite."

Sterrey wasn't too concerned about his team's record winning run. "We don't worry about those statistics. We let the media worry about those statistics. We just worry about the next week and we're on the road to Carlton next week and they're a quality side."

Sterrey, however, was pleased with his team's progress. "To score three goals and miss a penalty against Perth just shows the character in our room. We'll fight for everything. We'll fight tooth and nail. Certainly at least we have some spirit in the club which is all important."



MATCH STATS: NEWCASTLE BREAKERS:

Catlin, Pryce, Roberts, McManus, Sprod (Smith 70), Dodd, Wilson, Buonavoglia, Wieczorek (Tancheski 78), Harper, Moore



PERTH GLORY:

Petkovic, Trajkovski (Apros 79), Miller (Wehrman 69), Naven, Harnwell, Junior, Halpin, Ergic, Edwards,

Despotovski, Boutsianis

Yellows:

Breakers: Roberts 45, Wieczorek 65

Strikers: Harnwell 45, Halpin 82

Best Players

3. Glenn Moore (Breakers)

2. Con Boutsianis (Glory)

1. Troy Halpin (Glory)

Referee: Con Diomis

Perth coach Bernd Stange echoed the thoughts of many coaches after a loss to Newcastle and in doing so demonstrates that many teams and coaches still haven't grasped the Newcastle style of play, and how effective they are in letting teams dominate possession yet stifle any real attacking opportunities.

Stange said: "We were the better team today. If you see the whole game there was a big, big difference but we can't beat Newcastle. It was very hard. There were some decisions against us and we made mistakes in the defence."

Stange was philosophical about his Perth team. "I follow my way. Everyone can see we are an attacking team. We go forward. We try to keep possession and we play for the fans."

"I think the style we play is very interesting and exciting for everybody. It's a pity about tonight, but it's not an accident we lost against Newcastle."

MELBOURNE SPORTS BOOKS

New Soccer Books and Videos

Ronaldo	\$45
Teddy Sheringham: my autobiography	\$50
Rothmans F/ball Yearbook 99/2000	\$60
Playfair Football Annual	\$18
News of the World Annual 99/2000	\$20
Alex Ferguson: My Life	\$50
Robbie Slater: The Hard Way	\$25
Australian NSL History	\$10
Man Utd: Pride of all Europe	\$30
Vinnie Jones	\$20
Kevin Keegan: new book	\$17
Brimson Bros: Hooligan books	\$20 each
Perth Glory Yearbook 1999	\$14
Ruud Gullit: my autobiography	\$22
Eric Cantona: my story	\$20
Man Utd: Red Voices	\$50
FIFA: How they stole the game	\$50
Hillsborough Disaster: The Truth	\$28
Many Soccer coaching books/videos	\$10-50
Harry Redknapp: my autobiography	\$50
Michael Owen: two new books	\$25/50
Studs Up: Fanzine Sep 99	\$3
David Beckham: My Story	\$35
Frank Farina: My World Is Round	\$25
Tony Adams: Addicted	\$20s/back \$50h/back
George Best: Bestie	\$20
Maradona: Hand of God	\$20
Gianfranco Zola	\$50
Dennis Law: new book	\$50
Les Ferdinand	\$40

9 Elizabeth Street
Melbourne,
Vic, 3000

Phone:

(03)

9621 1211

and phone/fax

(03)

9621 1383

All credit cards, cheques/money
orders accepted.

Add \$8 for postage and
handling in Australia

shop open
9am to 5.30pm
Monday
to Saturday

Adelaide shows they still are a Force



NORTHERN SPIRIT 0

ADELAIDE FORCE 3

Mori 33, 59, 79

Friday night at North Sydney Oval, Sydney. Crowd 6,106



MATCH STATS:

NORTHERN SPIRIT: J Perosh, D Culina, G Arnold, J Sobczyk, P Moss, R Enes, Bingley, T Cranney (S Lyons 46), A Griffiths (M Cunico 66), R Slater A Saad (T Perinich 39),



ADELAIDE CITY: V Knezevic, Tobin, C Talladira, C Veart, M

Kemp, C Pelosi, A Constanzo, B Hassell (M Cartwright 89), N Sabljak, L Brain, D Mori

Yellows:

Northern Spirit: Phil Moss 43
Adelaide City: Louis Brain 77

Best Players:

3 DAMIAN MORI (FORCE)
2 Carl Veart
1 Nick Sabljak

Referee: Simon Micallef

By Paul Goodwin

Friday night at North Sydney Oval, was almost like a morgue, compared to last season's carnival-like atmosphere at the ground.

Northern Spirit went down 3-0 to last-placed Adelaide City 'Force' after a display which ultimately had their once buoyant supporters leaving in droves before the finish, while the rest, who stayed the distance, vented their frustration at the end with a concerted burst of booing, which was a first for this ground and this club.

Adelaide City are a good side and Spirit coach Graham Arnold warned his players of this during the week, and again in his column in the match day programme.

A side as well-drilled and experienced as this Adelaide one does not stay down for ever and they chose this game to return to their best.

They played the perfect tactical game, allowing their extremely well-organised and disciplined defence to absorb any pressure Spirit could offer and then launch the classic counter-attacking game as the clock began to wind down.

It was reminiscent of the approach taken by Newcastle at the start of the season and executed even better.

When a side has seasoned players like Carl Veart, Alex Tobin and Damian Mori in its line-up there must be a good understanding built up over many seasons together.

It was this cohesion which enabled them to play to a pattern and exploit the inexperience and lack of precision or certainty among the newer and younger Spirit

team members.

For while many of the home team tried hard, at least in the first half, most of what they did was of an individualistic nature.

Given that few of the players have had a chance to play together long enough to establish any rapport; it makes sense that Adelaide would be the more polished performers and that is how things panned out.

For Spirit to succeed they needed to find some early rhythm and retain possession for decent periods of the play.

They were unable to do this as the Adelaide players were constantly snapping at their heels, almost always having two of their number around the more senior Spirit players as soon as the ball came near them.

The result was that nobody could act as play maker and nobody could make any runs which could capitalise on decent passes.

Spirit were reduced to a few shots from distance or free kicks and waiting for a rare hand over by Adelaide players close to goal.

All the Adelaide goals were the result of Spirit errors, but having said that they were taken with quality finishing, all by hero of the night Damian Mori.

Sandwiched between two excellent, free headers inside the six-yard box, was a cool finish by the Soccerroo, who had drawn the exposed John Perosh off his line and found the far corner of the net, after being put through by Veart.



Nick Sabljak: one of the NSL's unsung heroes had a great game for Adelaide City Force.

When the Salvation Army band trooped in through the open gates at half time even their plea to Come All Ye Faithful, as they assembled at the top of the 'Family Bob' hill, fell on deaf or, if truth be told, missing ears.

The faithful stayed away in droves, partly due to inevitable Friday night Christmas parties, no doubt; partly because the bottom team in the league was in town; but mainly for the simple fact that the Spirit seems to have gone belly-up.

After the game, no excuses were offered by Spirit mentor Arnold, who, like his captain Robbie Slater, played through the pain threshold.

He merely stated that all of his players had played badly.

He could have mentioned his absent defender Mark Rudan or nippy wingman Matthew Langdon, but the side was also without rested senior players Luke Casserly, Paul Bilokapic and David Seal.

They suffered a cruel blow soon after Adelaide had taken the lead when their most effective attacking player, Abbas Saad, had to leave the field with a serious groin strain.

Early chances for both sides came from free kicks around the edge of the area. Mori lifted his effort well over the bar in the 8th and then Robert Enes, for Northern Spirit, drove a fierce shot low towards goal in the 17th and the ball deflected off an innocent defender for a corner.

A minute later Spirit might have opened the scoring, but, yet again, the touch near goal was not good enough. Slater sent a deep cross to the far post from out on the right and Arnold nodded it back to the centre where Saad connected on the volley, but sliced the ball well over the bar.

The first good Adelaide move in the 29th saw Mori shoot low and wide, but it was not long before one of their most consistent scorers over the years had added to his tally for the season.

Nick Sabljak floated over a 33rd minute corner from the left and Mori rose unchallenged to head the ball in, from around the centre of the area, to sneak it just under the crossbar.

Brad Hassell forced Perosh into a first class save in the 41st, his low drive from 20 yards being turned around the post by the in-form keeper.

Spirit's Troy Cranney had failed to connect with a low, diving header minutes before, while Arnold's own earlier header was directed straight at the keeper, Vilson Knezevic.

Adelaide began the second period with growing confidence and first

Mori burst through in the opening minute to lift the ball over the bar from 15 yards, when well placed to score and then Veart got into the box, but Perosh made his save look easy.

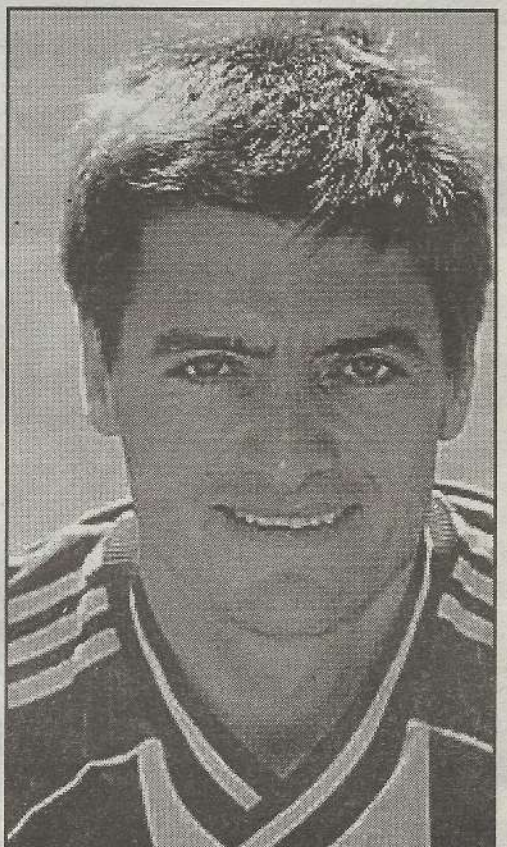
Spirit's only spark was provided by Slater who fed substitute Tony Perinich on the left, but the previous week's scoring hero could only find the side netting from an awkward angle.

Right on the half way touchline, in the 59th, Arnold lost out to a strong challenge from Veart, who had good support, and the lively utility player then set sail for goal.

Mori set off on a run into the box, timing it to perfection and as Veart reached the edge of the area he slipped the ball on for Mori who drew the keeper and found an empty net.

Adelaide were well served by Veart, in a marking role, as he was able to do a lot of damage when moving forward, once his defensive duties had been completed.

Another to impress was Sabljak who tried a spectacular overhead kick



Man of the Match Soccerroo Damian Mori: the Force striker is just what Spirit needs after he bagged three goals to destroy the Christmas Spirit at North Sydney.

inside the area in the 77th, but again found Perosh too good, with a tip around the post.

Sabljak despatched a free kick from the right in the 79th and Mori was able to climb high at the far post to beat defenders and nod home for his hat trick.

Spirit looked as if they could hardly wait for the final whistle in the last ten minutes, their best efforts being Lyons finding the side netting, Slater hitting one right at the keeper and Enes again lobbing over from close range.

Adelaide can feel confident now that they are back to their old form and should fear no one. Alex Tobin showed his customary organisational skills at the back, while Angelo Constanzo and Claudio Pelosi also impressed.

The Spirit side was deflated and dejected, after yet another drubbing and failed to raise the hopes of their supporters. It seems that there is still a long way to go to emulate the heights of last season and a play-maker and a settled side may be the only way they can deliver from now on.

The team has two more tough tasks ahead of it in Canberra Cosmos and Brisbane Strikers and they will need to lift considerably if they are to pick up points from either game.

Coast FM Soccer Adelaide

Sunday mornings 9.00 - 11.30am

Catch up with all the news and views in

Aussie Soccer and the Adelaide scene

Another entertaining six-goal draw in Auckland

FOOTBALL KINGZ 3

Ngata 44(pen), 70 (pen), Perry 86

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 3

Kelic 35, 56, Vassallo 76,

Friday night at North Harbour Stadium, Auckland. Crowd 3,500



MATCH STATS:

FOOTBALL KINGZ:
Batty; Vichelich (Riddle 85), Bunce, Jones, Stergiopoulos; Mennillo, Ngata, Osman (Perry, 51), Middleby (Van Steeden 85); de Jong, Rufer.



MELB. KNIGHTS:
John; Vukadin, Kovacevic, Banini; Nasteviski, Silic (Vassallo 74), Kiratzoglou, Cervinski, Rayher (Magdic, 46), Reda, Kelic.

Yellows:
Kingz:
Knights: John 69

Reds:
Kingz: Mennillo 45
Knights: Nasteviski 68

Best Players:
3. M. Stergiopoulos (Kingz)
2. A. Kiratzoglou (Knights)
1. M. Reda (Knights) 1

Referee: Gerry Connolly

By Jeremy Ruane

For the second time this season, a late equaliser ensured the Football Kingz of a 3-3 draw on home turf in the Australian National Soccer League, as the Melbourne Knights left North Harbour Stadium with a point to their name following a highly entertaining, incident-packed encounter on December 17.

The pick of the early opportunities fell the Kingz way, with Levent Osman and Wynton Rufer both going close inside the first five minutes, though only the latter forced Martin John to produce a save.

After Alex Kiratzoglou had imitated Osman in sending a looping header over the crossbar, Rufer sent a twenty-five yard effort flashing past John's left-hand post in the eighteenth minute, by which time the Kingz were having great difficulty in penetrating the Knights' well-marshalled offside trap.

Melbourne came desperately close to opening the scoring two minutes later. Kiratzoglou's corner was headed clear by Rufer to Mark Silic, who cleverly lifted the ball over the heads of the charging Kingz defence into the path of Adrian Cervinski.

He quickly brought the ball under control before unleashing a shot which deflected off Che Bunce straight to Jason Batty.

John produced a superb fingertip



Knights' Mike Reda: did well for the visitors.

save to deny Rufer from a free-kick in the 24th minute, the goalkeeper denying Oceania's Player of the Century five minutes later when punching clear a cross from the impressive Marcus Stergiopoulos which was intended for the Kingz player-coach.

Both Silic and Cervinski fired tame shots at Batty's goal around the half-hour mark. The goalkeeper was untroubled on both occasions, but that was not the case in the 35th minute, when Ivan Kelic cut in from the left and unleashed a ferocious angled drive from twenty yards which arrowed across the diving custodian and into the far corner of the net to open the scoring for the visitors.

Dino Mennillo and Michael Reda - this a cleverly disguised chip which had Batty backpedalling - were narrowly astray soon after, before Lee Jones sparked a fine Kingz raid down the left which was to lead to the equaliser a minute before the interval.

Robbie Middleby, playing his fiftieth game in the NSL, was the recipient of Jones' ball forward, and he played the sphere into the path of the galloping Mennillo, who was sent tumbling to the ground just after entering the penalty area by a mistimed Jason Vukadin challenge.

Referee Gerry Connolly had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot, from where Harry Ngata sent John the wrong way.

Moments later, Mennillo was on the burst once more when he went for a tumble with two opponents in close attendance. The whistle blew and up galloped referee Connolly, yellow card in hand.

To the disbelief of the 3,500 spectators present, he brandished it at Mennillo, adjudging that the midfielder had dived, although television replays hinted that his fall had not been without some subtle

assistance.

The crowd's disbelief turned to howls of disapproval, as Mennillo's booking was his second of the match, meaning the Kingz were down to ten men for the entire second spell, which they started brightly, Osman's darting run past four opponents seeing him set up Rufer, who cracked a rasping drive over the angle just five minutes into the half.

Six minutes later, the Knights silenced the home supporters with a well-taken second goal.

While the Kingz defence admired Paul Magdic's deep cross to the far post, Kiratzoglou stole in and expertly guided the dropping sphere into the path of Kelic, whose diving header left Batty beaten all ends up, and restored the visitors' advantage.

Up against it now, both on the scoreboard and numerically, the Kingz were there for the taking, and the Knights looked to do just that. Kelic was inches away with a shot on the turn on the hour, while Magdic pounced on some Ivan Vichelich hesitance to charge towards the target three minutes later. The Kingz defender was greatly relieved to see Batty pull off a fine save low to his left to prevent a further goal.

Having been roundly booed by the crowd as he headed for the dressing rooms at half-time, referee Connolly found himself back on the home supporters' Christmas card list in the 68th minute, as he dismissed Dragi Nasteviski for his second bookable offence. It must be said, however, that the Knights' midfielder was very harshly done by.

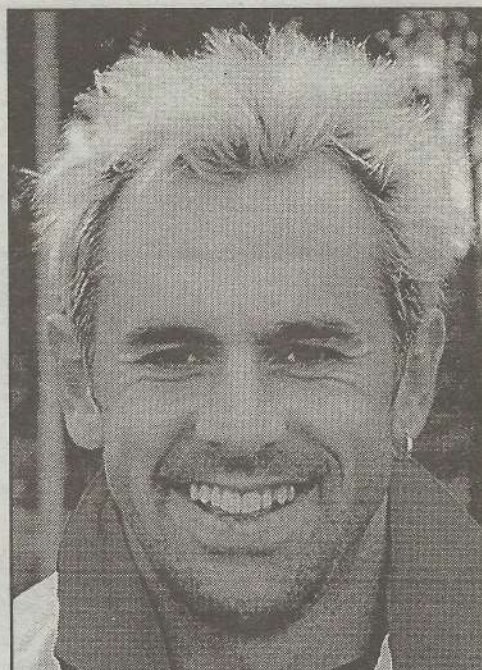
Soon after, however, the official was public enemy number one once more. Stergiopoulos was having a splendid game, and underlined the fact with a superb ball over the defence which left Rufer one-on-one with John in the penalty area. Off his line the 'keeper hurtled, and down went Rufer, pole-axed.

Up galloped referee Connolly once more.

There was no doubt that it was a penalty, and Ngata duly converted it past John, who can consider himself extremely fortunate to have stayed on the pitch for committing an out-and-out professional foul (red cards have been issued for offences of far lesser magnitude this season, and one must question the consistency with which match officials, both in this area of the world and beyond, are applying the Laws of the Game.)

The scores were level for just six minutes. The ball ricocheted skywards off Stergiopoulos, as he foiled a Kelic-inspired attack, and dropped for Reda. His header forward saw the clearly offside Kelic - not the only such incident missed by local referee's assistant Alan Pedley in this encounter - guide the ball back to substitute Brandon Vassallo, who, two minutes after entering the fray, thumped the ball past Batty to put the Knights in front once more.

Back stormed the



Marcus 'Stergiboy' Stergiopoulos. Is really hitting some form for the NZ side.

Kingz, John saving a Rufer effort at point-blank range.

Then Fred de Jong was brought to earth in the act of shooting, but no penalty was forthcoming. Jones and Vichelich were next to go close, the latter squaring the ball when he looked certain to score.

With four minutes remaining, the home team equalised.

Stergiopoulos released Jones down the right, and his first-time cross was met by Jonathan Perry, whose diving header bulleted past John inside the far post: 3-3, a scoreline which was to remain unchanged, despite the stoppage time efforts of Stu Riddle, for the home side, and Vassallo for the visitors, who didn't come to Auckland to defend, and, like the Kingz, were good value for the point they acquired come the final whistle.

SITTER!

The New Zealand soccer fanzine

\$3 You wouldn't want to miss it
No 37, September 1999

A night out in Mexico
with Michael Utting



Sitter!

Available from

11 Thames St. Hamilton, NZ

Subscriptions are \$A20 for five issues.

Cheques to B. Holloway

"A superb fanzine" says Inside Soccer

Stallions ride off with the three points



GIPPSLAND FALCONS 0

MARCONI STALLIONS 2

Maloney 75, Zoric 93min

Saturday night at Falcons Stadium, Gippsland. Crowd 2,245

MATCH STATS



GIPPSLAND FALCONS:

Jevdjovic, Fak, Gotis, Durakovic, Savage, Vargas, Bell, Puca (Katz 83), Hutchinson, Nilo (Kakos 70), MacNicol. (Sub not used Hastie)



MARCONI STALLIONS:

Turnbull, Gibson, Longo, Farah, Smith, Renaud, Maloney, Care, Zoric, Babic, Z (Trajanovski 82), Karl (Awaritefe 61). (Sub not used Kim)

Yellows:

Marconi Stallions: Smith 4, Renaud 71

Gippsland Falcons: Vargas 19

Red Card:

Marconi Stallions: Longo 83

Best Players:

3. Maloney (Marconi Stallions)

2. Care (Marconi Stallions)

1. Fak (Gippsland Falcons)

Referee: Perry Mur

three out of their last four matches, most notably a humiliating 0-3 defeat at home to newcomers the Football Kingz.

The match began just as the form guide had indicated, the Falcons playing with confidence and spreading the ball around with speed and precision.

Marconi in contrast were chasing shadows and looked unsettled with Eddie Krncevic making a number of changes after their humiliating loss the previous week.

Krncevic started with Babic and Karl up forward in a clear attempt to try and catch out the Falcons defenders with their speed on the counter attack.

The Falcons started lively and produced one of the best scoring opportunities of the match in the 10 minute. Adrian Savage ghosted in at the far post after a long throw caught the Marconi defence flat footed; the impressive Turnbull brilliantly saved his shot from inside the six-yard box.

The instinctive reaction save by the young keeper ensured Marconi survived the early onslaught by the Falcons.

The Falcons continued to dominate the early stages of the match with Durakovic, Gotis and Fak combining at the back and linking well with Vargas in midfield.

The three man Falcons attack of Nilo, Hutchinson and MacNicol were tormenting the Marconi defensive line, who clearly were having difficulty dealing with the overlapping runs and teasing crosses of Robbie Puca.

It was from one of many teasing crosses by Puca that the Falcons again nearly scored in the 12 minute, only to see the ball just pass the Marconi goal with Turnbull beaten.

Marconi almost scored against the run of play in the 17 minute after a scrappy build up saw Brendan Renaud hit a shot from outside the box, only to see it hit the top of the cross bar with Bojo Jevdjovic in the Falcons goal unsighted.

The Falcons had yet another great chance

to score in the 27 minute, when the hard running Juan Nilo managed to get behind the Marconi defence, he beat a defender on the goal line and cut back a perfect ball to Brian MacNicol just on the edge of the six-yard box.

Dominic Longo in the last line of defence brilliantly blocked the shot, which was destined for the net.

Marconi having survived the initial onslaught by the Falcons, were gaining in confidence and battling hard to gain control of the midfield through their experienced leader and captain Brad Maloney. His combination with Care and Zoric in

midfield lead to another well hit shot from outside the box, this time tipped over by Jevdjovic.

Maloney was in everything and came close to scoring in the 38 minute after Chad Gibson ran the ball out of defence, found Babic who proceeded to deliver a perfect cross to Maloney who headed wide.

Chances were coming at both ends with the first half nearing completion; Dean Fak for the Falcons found himself unmarked as he met a perfect cross by Puca, only to see his header go just wide in the 41 minute.

Harry Karl in the 42nd minute for Marconi did so well to dispose Mehmet Durakovic and head towards goal with only the keeper to beat, only to be run down by Durakovic before he could manage a shot on goal.

The second half began noticeably more physical, with Marconi looking to take control of the match.

Brad Maloney was leading from the front and was dominating play at both ends of the park, bringing Care and Zoric into play to control the midfield. Krncevic made a tactical change in the 51 minute bringing on the experienced Awaritefe for Karl up forward.

This had an immediate impact with the Falcons defenders instantly under pressure as Awaritefe found space with his first touch, only to hit his shot straight at the keeper.

The first goal in the 75 minute came from a harmless free kick just inside the Falcons half. From some 50 metres out, Maloney hit a speculative cross-come-shot which deceived Jevdjovic in the Falcons goal. The shot hit the bottom of the crossbar and bounced into the net, with Jevdjovic stranded and red faced. 1-0 Marconi.

The Falcons responded immediately with Kakos just heading wide after a great run by Durakovic opened the Marconi defence.

The home side continued to raise the tempo of the match in search of an equaliser, but the experienced Marconi defence held tight.

The Marconi defenders were forced to work even harder after the 83 minute when Dominic Longo was sent off for a late and high challenge on Robbie Puca, who was subsequently carried off.

The second goal came in the 93 minute on the counter attack as the Falcons defenders were caught upfield in search of an equaliser.

Christian Care broke away to find Kris



Superb performance by Falcons' Dean Fak at the heart of the home side's defensive unit.

Trajanovski unmarked in the box, his shot was well saved by Jevdjovic, only to see Zoric on had to put away the rebound. 2-0 Marconi.

The match was a perfect away victory for the Stallions after a disappointing few weeks.

The Falcons on the other hand did enough to get a result from the match, but a combination of good defending by Marconi and a lapse in concentration by the home side goalkeeper, yet again left them empty handed.

The best player on the night was clearly Brad Maloney, his leadership and total control of the midfield was a pleasure to watch.

Christian Care showed why he so highly regarded and Dean Fak for the Falcons never put a foot wrong at the back in his best game of the season.



Marconi's Soccerroo Brad Maloney underlined why he is so valuable with a dominating display in Gippsland on Saturday.

By Lucio Viggiano

In an entertaining match at Mobil Park, Marconi executed the perfect hit-and-run to take three crucial points back to Sydney. While the Falcons and in particular their goalkeeper Bojo Jevdjovic, were left to ponder how the points slipped away.

The two sides entered the match in contrasting form; the Falcons high in confidence after two weeks on the road, which saw them earn a point in New Zealand and then knock Brisbane off the top of the ladder.

Marconi on the other hand had lost

Great Graphic Design. Great price.

- ◆ Logos
- ◆ Letterheads
- ◆ Business Cards
- ◆ Corporate Identity
- ◆ Brochures
- ◆ Advertising

Graphic Force



Tel: (02) 9624-1928

Saso Claus brings joy to the Brandon Park faithful

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 3

Petrovski 15, 83, Chipperfield 77

CANBERRA COSMOS 0

Sunday night at Brandon Park, Wollongong. Crowd 2,497.



MATCH STATS:

WOLLONGONG

WOLVES: Pogliacomi, Ceccoli, Stanton, Cervinski (Souris 78), Horsley, Reid, Surjan, Young (Masi 83), Chipperfield, Spencer (Huxley 74), Petrovski

CANBERRA COS-

MOS: Barlow, Milin (Burt 75), Popovich, Polak, Winnie, Musitano (Kolpak 68), James, Hooker, Roberts, Dejesus, Gonzales (Prenzoski 68)

Yellows:

Wollongong Wolves: Spencer 14, Chipperfield 62
Melbourne Knights: Roberts 20, Popovich 60

Best Players:

3 - PETROVSKI (WOLLONGONG)
2 - Horsley (Wollongong)
1 - Cervinski (Wollongong)

Referee: David Dwight

By Stephen Webb

In conditions more in keeping with winter soccer - with teeming rain and a chilly gale blowing in from the south - and on a pitch being eroded by bugs, Wollongong handed out what Canberra coach Tom Sermanni called a football lesson.

Much of the glory went to twin-scoring man-of-the-match Saso Petrovski. But the credit also belonged to many others of the Wolves' entourage: the fast and furious attack, the confident and (mostly) secure defence, and a midfield that had control for most of the game.

If you believe Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos, that's the way it has been for Wolves in all but one game this season.

It's just that against Canberra the Wollongong side put away a few more chances.

Most of the early opportunities came Canberra's way, however. Robbie Stanton had to head clear a Paul Roberts cross. David Cervinski cleared a ball Ivo Dejesus was turning with his chest in the Wolves penalty area. Les Pogliacomi had to make a high mark. And Cervinski made a crucial sliding tackle to take the ball from Gabriel Gonzales running at goal.

All within the first 11 minutes. In that time Cosmos' Grant Barlow had one serious catch to make: from a deflected Stuart Young cross after the frequently elegant Stanton had made a long, breaking run from defence.

Petrovski was already making his mark - competing for the ball and deftly delivering to his team-mates. Stuart Young was ably assisting him, using his body well and holding up the ball.

Petrovski's first goal came from Matt

Horsley capitalising on a chance to run into oceans of space down the right flank. Once in Cosmos' penalty area he drew defenders and crossed square to Petrovski who fulfilled his striker's obligations and slotted the ball home.

A minute later and Horsley was delivering to Young. Young, on the left side of the Cosmos area, trapped with his chest and fought his way across the box.

By the time he had a chance to shoot he was too close to Barlow who blocked with his body.

Canberra had a few good moments - Gonzales outjuggling Surjan in midfield and a free kick flying by Wolves' left upright - and the visitors had almost an even share of the game toward the end of the first half.

Chipperfield was doing more defensive running than attacking. And Cervinski's hard tackling came in handy, once very impressively against Dejesus.

Pogliacomi made some important punches and was forced into a couple of errors - once under pressure from his own defence.

But the serious chances still came Wolves' way.

In the 30th minute Young put Petrovski through - a long ball from 30 metres out on the right touchline. Petrovski looked to have pushed his way

for Canberra's offside trap. Hooker continued to mop up what he could at the back and Roberts still made an occasional strong burst but Cosmos were in trouble from the first minute back on the pitch. Chipperfield put Petrovski through with only the keeper to beat.

He beat the keeper but not the post.

In the 52nd minute a fast sequence of short passes on the left from Surjan (playing his 100th game) to Petrovski to Chipperfield saw a low, firm cross headed over the bar by Horsley.

Popovich started getting the better of the tiring Petrovski; but he still wasn't fast enough for the sprightly Chipperfield (earning a yellow card for dragging the Wolves speedster back by the arm).

In front of the Canberra goal a Surjan/Petrovski combination and then a Young/Surjan combination almost produced chances.

In the 71st minute Alvin Ceccoli (playing his first senior home game of the season) sent Chipperfield down the left. His cross again found Horsley who again missed - this time wide to the left.

Then Petrovski set up Young whose shot was touched over by Barlow.

Receiving from Surjan, Young then returned the favour for Petrovski who shot over the left upright.

In the 73rd minute Canberra worked down to outside the Wolves' penalty area, eventually laying the ball back for a long shot which was deflected for a corner.

Five minutes later, though, Young put Chipperfield through into space. He swung the ball past Barlow and inside the right upright.

Wolves were two goals in front and fans were baying for the eight goals they'd seen them put past Canberra two seasons earlier. But time was nearly up. And there were still chances to be missed.

With 81 minutes gone Horsley came across field to the left, set up Petrovski down the line and then ran for the return - which Petrovski delivered beautifully. With only the keeper to beat the Wolves skipper curled his shot wide to the right.

Petrovski showed how it should be done two minutes later. Paul Reid, down the right, took the ball to the by-line and crossed. Petrovski was waiting. He turned on the ball and put it away.

Wolves sat back and passed the ball around. And, for some reason, so did Canberra. Three-nil it was to be.

Theodorakopoulos was pleased his team scored two goals in the last 15 minutes, rather than concede them as they did against Melbourne Knights.

He was still somewhat acerbic about Wolves' territorial domination. They'd been doing it all year, he said. At least now they were converting 30 per cent of opportunities.

He attributed Wolves' good finishing (the end game, not getting the ball in the net) to the players' physical strength and that, despite the poor conditions, they were able to keep possession for long periods.

Sermanni blamed his team's loss not on lack of enthusiasm but on lack of responsibility. He said there were basic defensive errors and his players were



He brought forth gifts in the form of two goals.
Saso Petrovski.

getting to the ball second.

Wolves have a chance to get a jump on other competition leaders with a match against South Melbourne on Thursday.

They then face their jinx opposition, Brisbane Strikers, on the 28th.

Canberra might be in danger of the chop but Wolves general manager Graeme Haney was not at all dispirited about Soccer Australia's determination to reduce the competition to 12 teams.

After meeting with Soccer Australia on Saturday he reported a positive attitude from SA to the Wollongong club.

However, he said Wolves asked for a deferral of the implementation of the new scheme, since clubs like Wolves were already preparing for the 2000-2001 season.

He said he was not unhappy with SA's new criteria except they did not take the circumstances of regional clubs into consideration.

Just as the cost of living was lower in regional centres, he said, so did it cost less to run a soccer club.



Another solid display by captain Horsley.

past the defenders but Topica Popovich made a saving tackle.

Almost immediately Horsley was free with the ball, this time running into the box from the left side. He fell under pressure from behind but, much to the disappointment of the home crowd, there was no penalty.

In the 33rd minute Young shot wide to the right after he was found on the edge of the area by Petrovski who had run from right midfield, turning and bustling past five Canberra players.

Two minutes later Cervinski passed to Young who couldn't get beyond Robbie Hooker at the goal box.

Then Horsley crossed to Young who was mopped up by Popovich, conceding a corner.

In time added on a Paul Reid free kick curled in from the right giving Petrovski a chance with his head. The ball drifted past the diving keeper ... but also past the upright.

Raiding with the wind at their backs in the second half Wolves were too quick

SU43 - Brazil or not Brazil? Who really cares anymore?

October 1999

\$3

Stamps value if you enjoy your soccer from a slightly different angle

StudsUp

The Australian Fans' Perspective

WANTED: More Jocks in Melbourne

(and it's not just the sliding tackles causing skidmarks)

Plus - Ange IS right, the media IS crap
Plus - Some right royal worries over the Kingz
Plus - Oz v Brazil?? Plus - Max Tolson Part 2

Website
www.ozemail.com.au/~studsap/index.html
E-mail: studsap@ozemail.com.au

To purchase a sample copy of SU forward three 90c stamps. Subscriptions are \$16 for six issues, or \$30 for twelve issues. The address is P O Box 53, Oakleigh South 3167

Cardozo and Arambasic: great combination

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2

Emerton 43, Cardozo 58.

BRISBANE STRIKERS 0

Sunday night at Belmore Oval, Sydney. Crowd 5,245



MATCH STATS:

SYDNEY OLYMPIC:

Bouhoutsos, Zoricich, Baillie, Juric, Wilson, Emerton, Zorbas (Kalantzis 71), Mendez, Cardozo (Jomaa 89), Tome (Carle 76), Arambasic.



BRISBANE STRIKERS:

Bolton, McClaren, Gwynne, Bell (Stefanutto 74), Pilic (Baldwin 80), Meredith, Harris (Di Losa 66), Ditton, Dwyer, Grierson, Foster.

Yellow:

Olympic: Mendez 69
Strikers: Meredith 27, Foster 38

Reds:

Strikers: Meredith 87

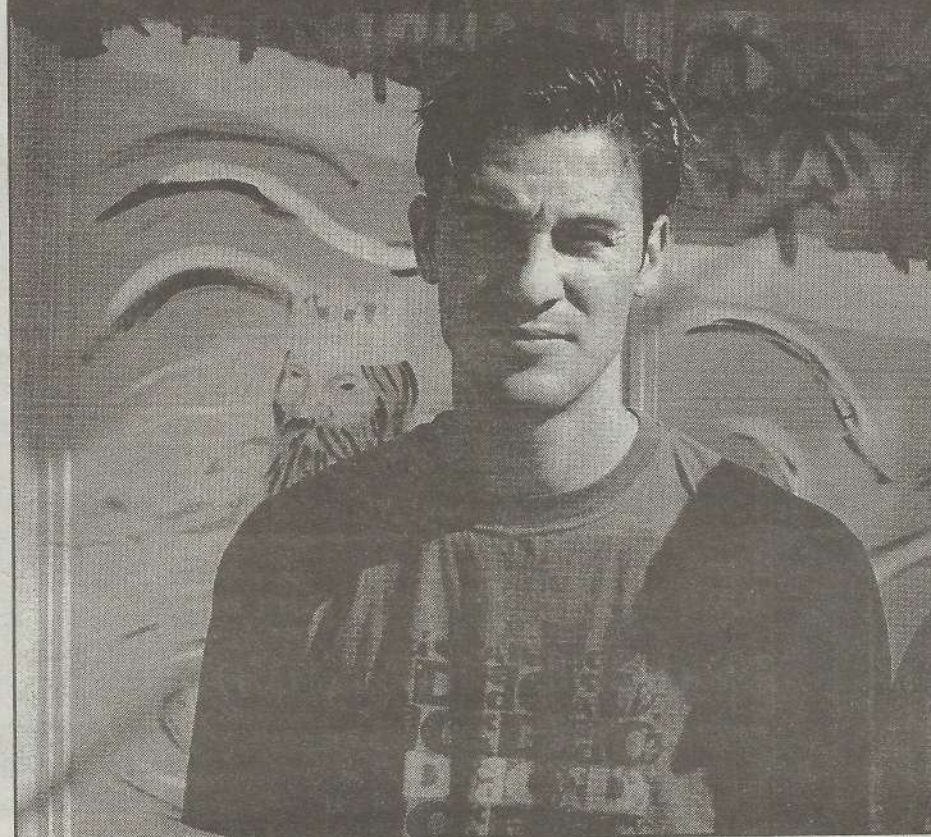
Best Players:

3. Cardozo(Olympic)
2. Arambasic(Olympic)
1. Mendez(Olympic)

Referee: Mark Shield



The firm of Cardozo (above) and Arambasic: doing the business upfront for Olympic, but how long will Cardozo be here for?



Early pacesetters Brisbane Strikers visited the new leaders Sydney Olympic on a cold, windswept Sydney Sunday evening. Sitting on the table for the first time in five years Olympic met the Strikers who had conceded the top spot on the ladder only last week and had lost their last two games.

This was an important game for the visitors who had started the season as the surprise packets but after two successive losses they needed to show their mettle by getting at least a point to get themselves back on rail.

Added pressure for the Brisbane team was the fact that they had never beaten Olympic at Belmore.

Although Brisbane were sitting in fourth spot they were only two points behind the leaders and win in this game would see them jump above them.

The much criticised Belmore Oval pitch looked in much better condition and the players seemed to appreciate it. Olympic, in particular revelled in the quality surface keeping the ball on the ground and, at times, bamboozled the Strikers with their interchange of passes.

Olympic totally dominated the first half territorially and possession wise and had their first chance very early in the game.

Soon to depart Pablo Cardozo had the first chance of the game in the 2nd minute when he chased a back header from a Brisbane defender but was just pipped to the ball by Gwynne who toe poked the ball away for a corner.

In the fifth minute Zlatko Arambasic beat his man, Glen Gwynne, and sped away along the right wing curling in a tantalising cross which reached the late arriv-

ing Brett Emerton on the far post but his cut back volley bounced into the hands of 'keeper Clint Bolton.

A Brisbane clearance reached Norman Tome shot from 30 metres but his well struck shot was easily handled by Bolton.

In the 7th minute Olympic should have opened the scoring - Cardozo broke down the left and his cross found Arambasic totally unmarked on the near post. The striker looked to be in an offside position but the flag stayed down and Arambasic side footed the ball towards Bolton's goal but just wide.

In the 17th minute a corner from the left, after a good move featuring a number for passes, found the head of Arambasic who had time to pick his spot but the ball flew inches wide of Bolton's right hand post.

In the 25th minute Tome beat Bell along the right touchline and his cross was

An innocuous challenge between Foster and Scot Baillie resulted in a yellow card to the former for what was definitely an accidental elbow.

In a season where yellow cards have been dished out as if the referees were striving for records this incident was certainly not worthy of such a caution.

The first half looked to be petering out to a tame end until Olympic finally was rewarded for the pressure and good play in the 43rd minute.

A free kick from the right was headed out just past the near post by a Brisbane defender to Cardozo who controlled the ball well under great pressure and volleyed the ball back across the goal to the far post where Olympic players were lining up for the header.

Emerton was in the best position and neatly headed the ball downward across Bolton's goal and into the corner of the net.

The second half began with the Strikers favoured by a very strong wind behind them but it did little to help their cause as Olympic continued its domination of the first half.

Tome beat his opponent in the 51st minute but his cross from the left was just out of reach of Arambasic's head.

In the 53rd minute Brad Ditton picked up a loose ball 25 metres out from the Olympic goal and decided to have a go. His left foot shot was strong but directed straight at the 'keeper who saved easily.

In the 57th minute Gabriel Mendez almost put the issue beyond doubt. A long ball over the top from Chris Zoricich found him beyond the defence - he took the ball in his stride cut inside Ditton, beat Bell and stabbed the ball past Bolton but onto the base of the upright and out of danger.

But a minute later the game was over.

A deep cross from the right found the Brisbane defence, including 'keeper Bolton ball watching and as they stood still Arambasic backtracked to head the ball back toward the post where Cardozo strolled in between three stationary defenders and side footed a volley past a stunned Bolton to register his sixth goal of the season.

In the 60th minute a long thrown in found the head of Foster who flicked it on to Peter Dwyer who turned and shot in one motion but wide of the near post.

In the 78th minute Lindsay Wilson beat Gwynne down the right touchline and provided Arambasic with a good ball which he controlled well and set up for a good shot. A defender put himself between the ball and the goal and averted the danger.

In the 82nd minute a right wing cross was just finger tipped out of reach of substitute Nick Carle who was ready to pounce on the ball.

The Cordoba(Spain) bound Cardozo should have scored his second goal in the 86th minute when a delightful chip from Emerton freed him inside the box but his first time volley was meekly struck and gave no trouble to Bolton.

The final few minutes proved to be uneventful with the visitors resigned to a loss and Olympic enjoying themselves with attractive football in their endeavor to score another goal.

Olympic were best served by the attacking players, Cardozo, Arambasic, Mendez and Tome while Ditton did well for the Strikers.

perfectly placed for Arambasic on the far post but Gwynne intervened in front of the striker and headed it away for a corner.

The Strikers had the first half chance in the 30th minute when a back header from a goal-kick by leading goal-scorer Paul Foster was returned to him by Peter Grierson but his 25 metres shot was deflected by a defender and rolled safely into the arms of George Bouhoutsos.

Only a minute later at the other end a neat move saw Emerton pass the ball to Wilson who gave Tome a neat through ball that he blasted with his left foot but straight at Bolton.

Power Crewses back to form at Edensor Park

SYDNEY UNITED 1

Bosevski 70

PARRAMATTA POWER 2

Eagleton 19, Sterjovski 58

Sunday night at United Sports Centre, Sydney. Crowd 4,565



MATCH STATS:



SYDNEY UNITED:
Hughes, Kupresak (Bozinovski 86), Bosnar, Maric, Rastall, J Moric, Savoca, (Younis 46), Arrarte, Genc, Pondeljak, Bosevski.



PARRAMATTA: Crews, Blagojevic, Vrkic, Byrnes, Barrett, Eagleton, Bennett, Ardene Burns, Sterjovski (Erich 95), Angelucci (Townsend 67).

Yellows:

United: Kupresak 15, Arrarte 23, Bosevski 72, Pondeljak 89

Power: Ardene 36, Angelucci 54, Bennett 68

Reds:

United: Younis 51

Power: Blagojevic 39

BEST PLAYERS:

3. CREWS (SYDNEY UNITED)

2. Byrnes (Power)

1. Pondeljak (Sydney United)

Referee: Matthew Breeze



Ray Younis: blasted later for his red card.

By John Vrtaric

It was a case of the new and old in this, at times, attractive game - the old in the form of Sydney United stalwart Velimir Kupresak was making his 239th NSL appearances for Sydney United, breaking the club record previously held by Manis Lamond. The new was the first starting appearance of 17-year old Joeys' captain Mark Byrnes in the Parramatta Power lineup.

Kupresak did not have a good day with a yellow card, and his struggling team going down 2-1 and being replaced late in the game as coach David Ratcliffe sacrificed his captain in search of the equaliser.

Byrnes, on the other hand, had a much better day at the office in his debut. Pitted against the dangerous Tom Pondeljak, playing in a striking role, Byrnes displayed a very mature performance, defending intelligently and showing composure on the ball.

The referee again played a significant role in the game with two players, one from each side, being sent off.

Power had their sweeper Blagojevic sent off in the 39th minute while United substitute Ray Younis was sent off six minutes after coming on at the start of the second half.

The officials kept an eye on both the sky and the crowd, the rain arriving soon after the game started but the crowd, save the constant jeering of players who a year earlier they cheered, behaved impeccably.

The visitors, as coach David Mitchell remarked after the game, probably were more comfortable playing on the former

home ground than their opponents, all of whom, with the exception of Kupresak and local junior Joe Moric, were playing with other clubs last year.

This was the first meeting of the newly formed Power, most of whom won the minor premiership with United last year, and the Sydney United at the home of the last year's grand finalists.

The home crowd was not backward in venting their anger towards their former heroes with loud jeers greeting the announcement of each player before the start of the game.

Power coaching duo Mitchell and Laurie McKinna, considered the chief villains, received the loudest reception as they entered the field.

Both teams were desperate to win this game as they lingered towards the bottom of the table - United in second last spot and Power only three points above them.

The home team welcomed back 19-year old Nahuel Arrarte, only three weeks after a knee operation but lost Matthew Zec to suspension, with Nick Bosevski replacing him as the main striker.

Jacob Burns returning from suspension, David Barrett getting his first senior team start after injury and Byrnes were the changes for the Power team.

The game started off slowly with passes going astray and both teams' play reflecting their positions on the table.

The first real action was in the 9th minute when Byrnes made his first impact in the game.

Winning a clearance after a corner Byrnes took the ball forward confidently and when within sight of the goal he wasn't afraid to let fly - the shot going well

wide.

One minute later an attack down Power's right wing saw Peter Bennett release Mile Sterjovski who beat Tom Maric and crossed towards the near post.

Striking partner John Angelucci was the target but the evergreen Kupresak got his head to the ball first and knocked it out for a corner.

United produced their first dangerous raid in the 16th minute when Bosevski found Pondeljak wide on the right with a clever first time pass through a crowded melee of players - Pondeljak came inside his opponent but his cross was cleared.

Two minutes later the first real chance for either team - an attempted clearance by the Power sweeper Blagojevic ricocheted off a fellow defender and fell into the part of Pondeljak.

The quicksilver striker took the ball into the penalty box but his shot was well saved by the Power 'keeper Andrew Crews.

In a quick turnaround United, instead of being one goal up, was conceding a goal one minute later.

Another well worked move down the right saw a deep Angelucci cross was well controlled by Sterjovski and laid off to Bennett. The midfielder's shot was blocked and rebounded wide to Steve Eagleton. The little defender brought the ball inside and his low right foot shot beat United 'keeper Brett Hughes to give Power a one goal lead.

The goal seemed to ignite the home team and the rest of the half belonged to them. They produced a number of chances with Crews playing a prominent role in defying the United attacks.

In the 30th minute a move down the left saw Genc pass to Pondeljak wide on the left where he beat Byrnes as he dribbled inside but his well struck shot was well saved by Crews.

Less than a minute later a long ball over the top released Bosevski on the right with the Power defence calling for offside. Bosevski escaped the clutches of Byrnes and from just inside the box his shot flew across Crews and just past the far post.

In the 39th minute a pivotal point in the game with the dismissal of Blagojevic - Bosevski picked up a loose ball evading Byrnes and strode towards goal with Blagojevic in front of him and Byrnes chasing.

Blagojevic's sliding tackle brought down Bosevski and referee Matthew Breeze adjudged him to be the last man in defence and promptly send him off.

A number of dangerous crosses, primarily from Pondeljak, were well handled by Crews and brought the first half to an end without further goals.

Two minutes into the second half substitute Younis was presented with a good opportunity. A long ball over the top from Kupresak freed him wide on the left where he beat Vrkic for speed but his well hit shot produced an excellent save by Crews who blocked the shot but Eagleton was first to the ball and cleared it to safety.

Younis then produced his moment of madness when he tangled with Byrnes and stomped on him as the youngster lay on the ground. The referee had no hesitation in producing the red card.

In the 55th minute Kain Rastall quickly released Pondeljak after picking up a loose ball just inside the Power half.



Andrew Crews: man of the match for the talented and reliable Power gloveman.

Pondeljak took the ball into the box but again his shot was well saved by Power custodian Crews.

Three minutes later Power scored the killer goal - Angelucci backheeled the ball wide on the right and somehow ended up with the ball when sweeper Eddie Bosnar and a fellow defender confused each other and left the ball to the powerful striker.

He stabbed the ball towards Sterjovski who took two steps inside the box and unleashed a powerful right foot shot that beat Hughes on the near post.

In the 64th minute Eagleton lost possession on the left and Rastall collected the ball immediately releasing Pondeljak who whipped in a low cross to the near post where Bosevski hit the ball well but Crews denied him a goal with a brilliant save low to his left.

Six minutes later the same two players produced an identical move with Bosevski again shooting on the near post but this time Crews was unable to keep the shot out, getting his hands to the ball but merely deflecting it inside the near post.

Bosevski's jubilation and subsequent message to his former coach David Mitchell earned him a yellow card.

In the 78th minute a counter attack involving Sterjovski and substitute Townsend found the latter in the United box with only Hughes to beat but the attempted swerving shot was pushed around the post by the keeper.

From the resultant corner young Byrnes rose above the defence and headed towards goal but Genc was able to clear the ball of the line.

In the 88th minute another quick counter attack by Sterjovski, Townsend and Burns ended with the latter dribbling inside Bosnar in the United box but his shot was aimed straight at Hughes and was easily saved.

United had one last chance in the long injury time period when Pondeljak found some space in just outside the Power box and unleashed a right foot shot that wizzed past Crews' right post.

Power held on to earn the three points against a gallant and unlucky United team that showed that they were a better team than their position indicates.

Carlton triumph in the big one



SOUTH MELBOURNE 1

Curcija (74)

CARLTON 2

Marth (84 pen, 90+)

Sunday afternoon at Bob Jane Stadium, Melbourne. Crowd 12,864

MATCH STATS:

South Melbourne: Jones, Blatsis, Iosofidis, Orlic, Lozanovski, Clarkson, Panopoulos (Magnacca 87), De Amicis (c), Goutzioulis, Curcija (Liparoti 77), J Anastasiadis (Coveny 65)

Carlton: D Anastasiadis, Atkinson, McPherson, Douglas, Terminello, Marth (c), Lapsansky, Slater (Packer 77), Thompson (Conroy 77), Markovski, Moreira (Anthopoulos 64).

Yellow Cards:

South Melbourne: Goutzioulis 7, Blatsis 32, Lozanovski 45, Panopoulos 65.

Carlton: Marth 32, Markovski 32.

Red Card:

South Melbourne: Lozanovski 45
Carlton: McPherson 70

BEST PLAYERS:

3. ANDREW MARTH(CARLTON)
2. Steve Panopoulos(South Melbourne)
1. John Markovski(Carlton)

Referee: Eddie Lennie.

By Alan Clark

After a tight and chess-like first half, both South Melbourne and Carlton turned on a barn-stormer in the second before a packed Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday. But the greater portion of the massive crowd would have departed disappointed, as Carlton brought to an end South Melbourne's long undefeated home record in a dramatic late come-from-behind 2-1 win as both teams ended the game a player short.

Michael Curcija had headed South into the lead in the 74th minute after good work on the left from Steve Panopoulos who broke away from midfield and crossed.

Carlton captain Andrew Marth equalised from the penalty-spot ten minutes later after South keeper Chris Jones missed a punch and Con Blatsis conveniently fell on substitute Mike Conroy just as Conroy was about to take advantage.

And Marth twisted the knife with the winner in added time when he was first to a ball inside the South six-yard box after a 20 metre blast from Con Anthopoulos set up following a Markovski free-kick was not cleared.

"(South) have conceded goals late on in several games this year," said Carlton coach Stuart Munro afterwards.

"So I said to the players that they have to stick with it, no matter if we go a goal down.

"It was a typical derby game - it had everything: orderings off, plenty goals, lots of controversial incidents."

South coach Ange Postecoglou was less pleased. "I thought we had to fight to stay in the game (after having a player

sent-off), and I thought we did that well. We got the goal, and from there I'm disappointed we lost the game - we'd got into a winning position, and both teams were down to ten men. We just couldn't hold out."

For the second successive game, South Melbourne played a man short for all of the second half. Goran Lozanovski was given his second yellow card just before the first half ended. The incident began when Lozanovski was brushed off the ball by Stuart Slater, then chased Slater, bringing him down with a foul tackle.

Referee Eddie Lennie cautioned Lozanovski who then seemed to say something to the referee as he walked away. Lennie blew his whistle several times to recall Lozanovski but Lozanovski ignored it and kept walking back to his defensive position. When Lozanovski eventually returned, Lennie produced the red card.

Lozanovski remonstrated at the unfairness of it all, and had to be restrained from further approaching Lennie by several of his team-mates, before reluctantly departing the contest.

Midway through the second half, Lennie dismissed Dave McPherson after McPherson took a round-arm swing at Steve Panopoulos, angered by Panopoulos' tug of his shirt sleeve. As

teams' midfields nullifying the abilities of the other. It was a game for the student of the game, rather than a spectacle for those requiring entertainment.

What chances arose were fleeting. Both defences capably managed what escaped the midfield crush.

But with South a player short, the suspicion was that there would be space for Carlton to exploit in the second half.

And so it proved. South had re-arranged its midfield formation after the break - Lozanovski's absence giving Carlton's wingers Slater and Archie Thompson greater time and space.

From the beginning of the second half, it was Thompson who got the greater share of the advantage.

But still the breakthrough could not be fashioned. The reorganised South defence ran down and harried any Carlton build-up, increasing their workrates to cover the player deficit.

Carlton did have a goal disallowed for offside, and South had a penalty claim turned down by Lennie who clearly indicated what the South players thought was an arm, was a thigh.

With McPherson off, and both teams playing with nine outfield players, the game opened out.

Rather against the run of play, Panopoulos' cross found Curcija in position to head home the opening goal with only fifteen minutes of regulation time remaining.

In a calculated gamble, South coach Ange Postecoglou then almost immediately took off Curcija for a more defensive player - Robert Liparoti - perhaps signalling his intention to close out the game and hold on to this slender lead.

But the gamble failed. Jones, taking the opportunity of starting as South goalkeeper in the enforced absence through suspension of Milan Udvaracz, had coped competently with any threat, but may be slightly faulted for the incident that lead to Carlton's equaliser.

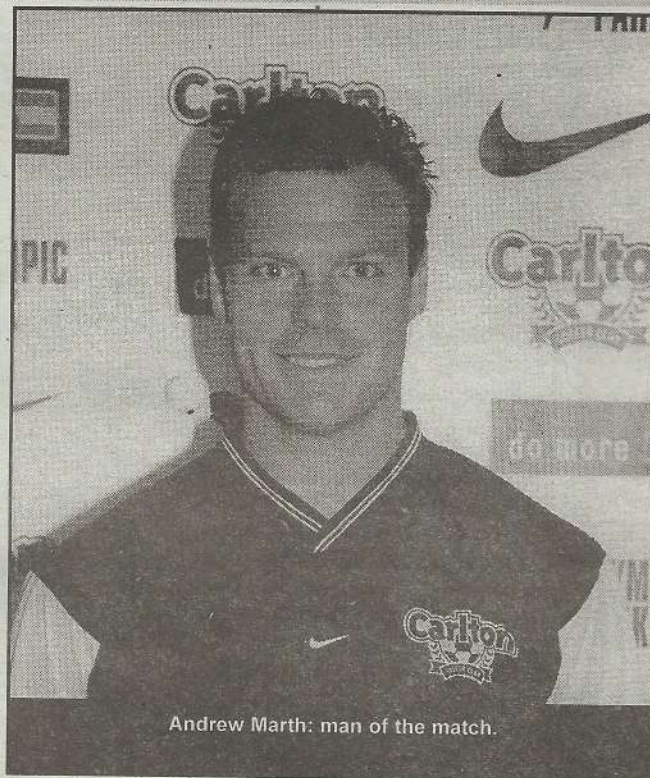
He came for a ball but missed, and it fell to where substitute Conroy may have scored but for Blatsis falling on him.

Marth is cool in these circumstances, and blasted home the consequent penalty. He is a player that delights in a contest, and seems especially to relish those against South Melbourne - whether they be in a Knights' shirt as was previously the case, or a Carlton one as at present.

So it would have been with particular joy that Marth stabbed home the winner from close-range with all the ninety standard minutes elapsed. That it also made Carlton the first team since the end of season 1997/98 to leave Bob Jane with all three points would have added to his, and Carlton's, pleasure.

It certainly pleased Munro: "It's a big step for us - for the confidence of the players and the morale of the club."

Carlton and South Melbourne have established a keen rivalry since Carlton's arrival in the National League three seasons ago, having met five times in their first season including the Grand Final, and this year will meet four times in the



Andrew Marth: man of the match.



South star Steve Panopoulos.

the South Melbourne midfielder is about a metre shorter than the big Scotsman, the swing was well over Panopoulos' head, but showed sufficient intent to have Lennie show the red card.

In an earlier incident, Marth threw Con Blatsis to the ground, provoking a melee which threatened to engulf all players of both teams.

After regaining control, Lennie showed the yellow card to Marth, Blatsis, and John Markovski. He could equally have recorded the names of many others.

The first half had involved both



**NOW AVAILABLE
FOR ONLY \$10**

(INCLUDING POSTAGE IN OZ AND NZ)

CHEQUES AND MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE
TO
STUDS UP
PO BOX 53,
OAKLEIGH SOUTH, 3167

ALSO AVAILABLE AT
**MELBOURNE
SPORTSBOOKS**



INSIDE JUNIOR SOCCER



NORTHERN DIVISION RESULTS

Newcastle 6	Wollongong Colts 0
Juchniewicz 12, Rufo 15	
Angieviski 26 pen, 65, Ross 44, 85	
NSWIS 1	Parramatta Power 1
Lockhart 60	Pfengle 40
AIS 3	Marconi Stallions 0
Kennedy 36, 49, North 87	
Sydney Olympic 3	Q.A.S. 0
Miot 31, Sinozic 69, Macallister 88	
Wollongong Wolves 0	ACTAS 1
	Veljanovski 37
Bye - Sydney United	

SOUTHERN DIVISION RESULTS

VIS 4	Melbourne Knights 2
Sekulovski 2, Radosevic, Sastre	Pelikan, Pantelidis
Albury Wodonga 4	Preston Lions 4
Martin 2, Griffiths, Ritchie	Ibrahim 3, Dolevski
Gippsland Falcons 1	Bulleen Inter 1
Stojanac	Ollerton
Carlton 4	Fawkner Blues 0
Ekici, Mtsiopoulos, Nikolic, Stojceviski	
South Melbourne 0	South Dandenong 1
	Korcarevski
Melb Knights Academy v Bye	

Theo Katsaros reports that Newcastle Breakers demolished the Wollongong Wolves Colts by six goals to nil in Northern Division NYL game.

Robert Angieviski and David Ross snared doubles as the home side controlled the game with a four goal burst in the first half.

Peter Juchniewicz and Joshua Rufo scored to make it two-nil within the first quarter of an hour before Angieviski and Ross completed the scoring for the home side who continue to show improvement after an unfortunate start to the season.

At the AIS Soccer Field the AIS defeated the Marconi Stallions to take the Institute back to the top of the league for the first time since Round 6.

An even first half was concluded with Joshua Kennedy putting the home side into the lead in the 36th minute. The goal seemed to deflate the Stallions who succumbed to their hosts by three goals to nil.

Kennedy bagged his double after 49 minutes and Jade North found the back of the net three minutes from time.

The NSW Institute and Parramatta Power battled out a one-all draw at Valentine Park. The result means that Power relinquish top spot on the ladder to the AIS, albeit on goal difference.

The match was closely fought, as the score suggest, with the Institute snatching the advantage after 40 minutes as Shane Lockhart found his scoring touch.

The Power, still unbeaten in their inaugural season, equalised in the 60th minute via Monte Pfengle. Neither side could find the elusive winner but would have been pleased to share the spoils.

Sydney Olympic also continued its unbeaten run with a convincing three-nil victory over QAS. The Olympians added Joey Anthony Doumanis (pictured right) to their squad during the week and he impressed before being substituted after 70 minutes.

Olympic was always in command after Lee Miot (pictured below) opened the scoring in the 31st minute. The second half was brought

to life after 69 minutes when Dylan Macallister threaded a perfect through ball into the path of Sebastian Sinozic who easily slotted the ball past the oncoming 'keeper. The QAS struck the crossbar late in the game before Macallister was gifted a goal after a blunder by Nathan Coe, the QAS 'keeper.

The ACTAS traveled to Wollongong and secured all three points courtesy of a Goran Veljanovski strike in the 37th minute. The ACTAS are capable of defeating any team in the league but their inconsistency sees them lying mid-table.

The Wollongong Wolves are another team that has not yet reached its potential. The Wolves have struggled this season after vying for a top four spot last season.

The Marconi Stallions Colts and the Newcastle Breakers Colts shared the points at Marconi Stadium on Sunday afternoon.

The visitors took the lead in the 21st minute with a goal from Peter Haynes but the Stallions equalised just after half-time and, in fact, went ahead after 51 minutes.

Alex Brosque, who has increased his tally for the season to six, scored both goals. However, the Breakers salvaged a point when Haynes scored his second for the match.

The remaining matches of Round 12 will be played on Monday night at North Sydney Oval (after Inside Soccer went to press) as the Northern Spirit Colts tackle the Sydney Olympic Academy and the Northern Spirit clash with the Sydney United Colts.

Roy Hay reports that in the Southern Division Victorian Institute of Sport beat Melbourne Knights by four goals to two on Saturday at Grange Reserve.

Though the VIS won in the end, the Knights breached its goal line for the first time this season and Murray Baume reports that the visitors deserved more from the game in view of the effort they put into it.

George Pantelidis opened for the VIS in 12 minutes, but leading scorer Anthony Pelikan's tenth of the season brought the Knights level in 28 minute.

Two quick goals by Naum Sekulovski seemed to have given the VIS a clear break, but when Jure Radosevic pulled one back in 59 minutes it became a contest once more.

The match was really not settled till the very last minute when Juan Sastre scored his second goal in as many matches since returning from long term injury.

Carlton kept up its league leadership on goal difference with a four-nil win over Fawkner Blues at Hosken Reserve.

Two goals in each half settled the result with Deniz Ekici and Angelo Mtsiopoulos getting the first two and Mathew Nikolic, probably the man of the match, and Ace Stojceviski the others.

Colin Azzopardi and Marco Iacobaccio were top performers in a good all round effort by the Dark Blues, whose keeper was basically untroubled by the young Fawkner attack.

Gippsland Falcons and Bulleen Inter drew one-all at Mobil Stadium also on Saturday.

Igor Stojanac scored on the stroke of half-time for the Falcons but Ryan Ollerton made sure the Bulleen side went home with the point it deserved in a very even contest.

Cheryle Martin reports that Preston Lions earned their first point of the season in an eight-goal drawn game with Albury Wodonga Warriors in Albury on Saturday.

The Warriors dominated the first half after goals in 9 minutes from Adam Griffiths and 15 minutes from John Ritchie.

Javi Martinez and Paul Brunec did the lead-up work for the first. Brunec's shot was too hot for keeper Pasi Schwalger to hold and Griffiths followed up. Rhys Zolfelds provided the cross for Ritchie's far post header.

In the second half the Lions came out firing and Ali Ibrahim put them on the board early in the half.

Then in a spell of continuous Lions' pressure Ibrahim scored again and set up a goal for Robert Dolevski.

It took a penalty, when Jones was fouled in the box, to bring the Warriors level as David Martin converted the kick.

But the Lions came back once more and Ibrahim completed his hat-trick.

In a last throw sweeper Ryan Hayes came up from the back to find Martin for another equaliser for the Warriors in 84 minutes.

Despite some furious late action the score stayed that way till the end.

South Dandenong surprised South Melbourne with a one-nil victory at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday.

It was a classic match plotted by coach Goran Runje as South Dandenong scored early, absorbed lots of South Melbourne pressure then hit on the break.

The critical goal came after nine minutes as Mentor Memeti broke down a South Melbourne move in midfield and fed Qemal Korcarevski



who finished accurately.

Richie Alagich, in a try out after injury, limped off after 20 minutes to be replaced by Ian Callaghan, but the closest South came to a goal in the first half was a Scott Hynds shot saved by Adam Cevizovic after lead up work by Mustafa Mustafa and Tasso Psonis.

Andrew Mashoian just could not get a touch on a cross from the byeline by Boris Ovcin. Mentor Memeti drove a free kick through the South wall but could not beat keeper Chris Roche.

The second half saw more resolute South Dandenong defending with Petrit Emmini, Lirim Rasimi and Daniel Rajher prominent, but it took a brilliant finger-tip save by Cevizovic in injury time to keep out an Ovcin shot to gain the three points for South Dandenong, which now moves to fifth on the ladder.

The Southern Division has a break now till January 12, 2000 when Round 10 begins on the Wednesday with a match between Fawkner Blues and South Melbourne.

NORTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
A.I.S.	13	9	2	1	2	51	14	29
Parramatta Power	11	9	2	1	0	32	6	29
Sydney Olympic	10	7	3	1	0	29	7	24
Q.A.S.	12	7	1	1	4	31	18	22
Northern Spirit	9	6	1	1	2	21	12	19
Newcastle Breakers	12	6	1	0	5	24	16	19
Marconi Stallions	10	6	0	0	4	16	18	18
A.C.T.A.S.	11	4	3	1	4	18	24	15
N.S.W.I.S.	10	4	2	1	4	18	10	14
Sydney United	8	4	1	0	3	17	17	13
Olympic Academy	10	4	0	1	6	24	39	12
Wollongong Wolves	10	3	1	1	6	10	17	10
Newcastle Colts	13	3	1	0	9	16	29	10
Marconi Colts	10	2	3	1	5	16	26	9
Northern Spirit Colts	9	2	2	1	5	9	23	8
Sydney United Colts	13	1	2	0	10	11	35	5
Wollongong Colts	9	0	1	1	8	6	39	1

SOUTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlton	8	8	0	0	37	3	24
VIS	8	8	0	0	27	2	24
Bulleen Inter Kings	8	6	1	1	22	11	19
Melbourne Knights	9	3	2	4	26	21	11
South Dandenong	8	3	2	3	12	12	11
Gippsland Falcons	7	3	2	2	10	15	11
South Melbourne	7	3	0	4	18	10	9
Fawkner Blues	8	2	2	4	10	20	8
Albury Wodonga	9	1	2	6	13	32	5
Knights Academy	7	1	0	6	3	11	3
Preston Lions	9	0	1	8	7	48	1



to life after 69 minutes when Dylan Macallister threaded a perfect through ball into the path of Sebastian Sinozic who easily slotted the ball past the oncoming 'keeper. The QAS struck the crossbar late in the game before Macallister was gifted a goal after a blunder by Nathan Coe, the QAS 'keeper.

The ACTAS traveled to Wollongong and secured all three points courtesy of a Goran



World Cup USA '99 action with Sarah Cooper playing against Ghana in Australia's first game.

SHOULD WOMEN COACH WOMEN?

they wanted to be treated in the same manner as elite male players and in fact most wanted to be coached by males.

As Mia Hamm has stated in Newsweek "Coach us like men...but treat us like women"

Not an easy concept for a male coach to grasp. However interviews with male coaches of international female soccer players (from a number of countries) reveal that these players react differently to criticism in that they take comments on their play as personal rather than professional.

It was suggested also that directions to tasks were interpreted differently by elite females in that they were followed rigidly and often without creative intuition from the player.

These responses were not criticisms,

Not only do we have a World Cup and an Olympic medal to play for, but also they now have a career path to follow, in that in Europe and Japan many females are professional.

The evolution of a professional league in the USA will be a major breakthrough in a career path for females.

THE GROWTH AREA

If the growth in female participation continues through both development programs and a raised awareness of the game, then a new and more important problem may occur. For this growth will be at the beginner level and quite often the beginner female participant is at the teenage adolescent stage of development.

Therefore the role and attitude of the coach at this stage in the player's life will be a particularly important factor in the continuance of the young players' career in soccer and possibly continuance in any

coach.

As Julie Foudy has openly confirmed "girls need soccer role models." It would seem essential that the adolescent female sees a successful female as the role model coach.

Many young females are hindered by the belief that they cannot improve, when they see a talented male player demonstrating a skill. However, if they see the same skill being demonstrated by a talented female player, then the skill is tangible and they are more prepared to go through the important trial and error process of learning.

The profile of Mia Hamm, Michelle Ackers, Brandi Chastain and Briony Scurry can only be a positive for girls all over the world not just the USA.

There is no doubt that Sun Wen and Goa Hong are vital role models for the game in China. In an objective analysis the gender of a coach for the beginning female player is irrelevant, all that matters is that they are sensitive to the specific needs of the player and have the patience to ensure that skill development is allowed to progress at the appropriate pace.

Also the intelligence to understand that self esteem plays a vital part in skill development. The role modeling influence however adds a different perspective to this argument, for this is a major influence on the continued participation of the player.

The challenge for soccer is to continue the development programs that are creating this growth in female participation.

Identify talented female players and encourage and assist them to participate in coach education programs. Henny Oldenhove, an elite female hockey coach, described the lack of female coaches in predominantly amateur sports being due to the fact that it was often their third priority...after work and their home.

Possibly equity development as a whole in society will change this, and the talented pool of ex-players now emerging after three World Cups can be identified and encouraged to continue their vital role in the development of the game.

I believe that the answer to the question, should women coach women is a definite - Yes!

However the Australian question is do we have the pool of coaches ready to coach at the highest level...the answer to this must be - No!

It leaves the perceptive reader with the ongoing question should elite women coaches go on to coach elite male players?

Immediately a range of cultural and historical influences are raised. Revealing once again, that coaching is a mirror of society in general and once again emphasizing the importance the role and the style of the coach is to sport in general.

Coaching educationalists in soccer and in sport in general must constantly evaluate philosophical questions and produce the answers that are appropriate to a constantly evolving society.

Anissa Tann-Darby is Australia's most capped player with 92 appearances for her country. She is a Graduate in Physical Education and is a qualified coach at the highest level in Australia. Further she is the only woman to coach winning teams at the National State Championships (NSW) and National Club Championships (Marconi). She has been a regular contributor to Women's Soccer World Magazine. Here she poses the discussion question:

Should Women Coach Women?

but perceptions and often caused behavior modification of the coach.

There must however be strong arguments that these elite female players only have experiences of male coaches and have minimal knowledge or experience of elite female coaches.

As coaching gender equity programs evolve, and the present few elite female coaches are given opportunities, then eventually female players will have a choice and the best person may be a realistic choice.

It is essential that the elite female soccer players are targeted, encouraged to enter the coaching system and supported and nurtured to reach the top. Semantics will dictate if this is called fast tracking or positive discrimination. Obviously Germany, England and Sweden have done this and the USA with Lauren Gregg and April Heinrichs are in the process.

The world evolution of the women's game and its political acceptance and encouragement by the International governing body the Federation of International Football Associations (F.I.F.A) has led to a growth in the self esteem and ambition of the elite players.

form of physical activity.

If soccer is to accept that this influx of new female players is quite likely to have a low skill level and be at an age where self esteem is a vital factor, then identification of the right type of coach is vital.

The traditional authoritarian task orientated coach would be a disaster for the inexperienced adolescent female player, as this stereotype would care little for the person.

Fortunately coaching research is showing that coaching styles are evolving with improved coach education programs and people orientation is a more prominent philosophy than task orientation. The player must be involved at this age in the decision making process and feel that she belongs to the game of Soccer, in fact she must feel that it is her game, as opposed to a woman playing a man's game.

This shift in the perception or attitude of the female player is vital if the sport wants these new participants to stay in the game and to reach the elite level.

The present elite level of player is only a small population, this must be expanded for greater success on and off the field. A key coaching factor in this scenario is the role modeling effects of the

Due to the incredible success of the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup in the USA and the tremendous publicity generated, women's participation rate in soccer will continue to grow rapidly world wide.

A tangible example of this in Australia is the 64% growth rate in women players in 1999 in New South Wales alone.

The World Cup plus the Olympic exposure has set alight the imagination of many young female athletes. The next question in the development of our game is that with this growth, are female coaches more suited to coaching women players than male coaches?

If so, are there enough female coaches? The classic example being that there were only two female Head Coaches at the 1999 World Cup.

I will attempt to answer these questions and reveal that soccer's dilemma is only a reflection of sport and society in general in Australia, yet the questions posed and possible answers could I be also related to other countries, though the USA is maybe a decade ahead in its sporting social development.

The questions I pose are complex questions to answer, particularly as any female writer has to be wary of being either patronising or politically incorrect.

Of course any view from a female writer will have been influenced by an upbringing in the male conservatism of soccer.

As Hay, an Australian Sports Historian states, "Soccer was, and remains an extremely conservative social institution."

THE ELITE LEVEL

If the game of Soccer is analyzed into its components of technique (Biomechanics) and fitness (Physiology), there is certainly no difference in approach to male and female players, particularly at the elite level.

The International female player works to physiological training programs devised by the top sport scientists and the performance indicators are comparable to elite males, whether this be the multi stage aerobic test or a vertical jump.

The techniques of the game are skill based and the timing of a strike of a ball is more important than the power factor.

Many elite girls can kick a ball further than more muscular men. Tactical awareness and "vision" in the game are mainly learned through playing as often as possible and female coaching programs are now as lengthy as male programs.

However, at the elite level the psychological approach would seem to differ, and at times could be considered confusing. Interviews with International female players at two World Cups revealed that

TONY PETTY: STRIKERS' NEW WEAPON



The successful Brisbane Strikers of 99/2000.

Twelve months ago, Tony Petty, the Brisbane Strikers chairman, settled on the Gold Coast which, by any standards, is a long way from the high profile excitement of English football.

However, in his short association with Australian football, Petty has created his own brand of fireworks as the old guard starts to take notice of this highly successful Londoner who originally came to Australia to enjoy the fruits of his early retirement.

In this exclusive interview with Roger Sleeman, Tony Petty reveals his experiences in the Australian game and outlines his blueprint for positive change to take the game into the new millennium.

ROGER SLEEMAN Can you outline your involvement in English football?

TONY PETTY Contrary to all reports, I wasn't a director at Charlton or West Ham. I organised sponsorship for these clubs through my company as I had a large client base at the two clubs.

My presence at the clubs was merely on a commercial basis, although I was a shareholder in both.

R.S. Why did you decide to become involved with Australian football?

T.P. Obviously, I was born with a passion for football, but there was no real intention to contribute to the local game as I was enjoying life to the full in my early days on the Gold Coast.

However, when the opportunity arose to command the helm at the Gold Coast Gamblers, the football bug hit me once again. I had been privy to unsuccessful discussions about Gold Coast participation in the N.S.L. and when asked to join the board of the Strikers I jumped at the chance.

On September 3, I was appointed chairman and managing director of the club and on September, 30 I became the majority shareholder.

R.S. In your short stay in the game you've been associated with a fair share of controversy. Why do you think this has happened and is it part of the tall poppy syndrome which plagues Australian football?

T.P. I think the game can be run much better but I don't want to be seen as a hatchet man. Headlines like, 'Tony Petty launches hostile bid to be on board of the QSF', don't really build your personal image or that of the game.

I want to make it quite clear, I put my name down for nomination like everyone else.

I hope my experience is not about the tall poppy syndrome because this is very prevalent in the U.K.. The big difference in Australia is the game is too small for petty jealousy. If people oppose what I'm doing on a personal basis, I can't change that. All I can do is try to improve the game in Queensland.

R.S. Allegations have been made

that votes were touted in the recent Q.S.F. board election. Can you comment?

T.P. The truth is that on the day of the election one candidate withdrew his nomination because he admitted people were touting for him. I congratulated him on his integrity which meant I was duly elected to the remaining position on the board.

R.S. You've been described in some circles as a mover and shaker. Does this accurately portray your style of operation?

T.P. If you associate those qualities with success, perhaps that's a reasonable assessment.

After all I experienced huge success with the Gamblers and the Strikers have created history with their recent nine match unbeaten run in the N.S.L.

The success this season is no secret formula. John Kosmina and I scoured the State Leagues to acquire players to add to the squad and all that was needed was some luck and a sharp eye for quality players.

Despite our recent losses to Newcastle and Gippsland, we have a good balance of experienced and younger players which will see us challenging for honours this season if our current form is any guide.

Look at Peter Dwyer, who's having an inspired season with the club. Dwyer played for Celtic in front of 50,000 crowds so appearing at Suncorp for the Strikers is a breeze for him.

R.S. How long do you think Jade North and Shayne Smeltz will stay in Australia?

T.P. It's a difficult situation when you produce players of this quality. If the right offer is made you can't hold a player's career back but it largely depends on looking at the facts presented at the time.

You must remember that young players eye the wages of players like Harry Kewell whose earnings in a week exceed the total weekly wage bill of our highest paying N.S.L. club.

R.S. How can you account for the brilliant return to form of Paul Foster after his disappointing season at Northern Spirit?

T.P. Remo Nogarotto has been asking what have we done with the player. As I'm not familiar with Graham Arnold's coaching methods, I can't make any comment in that direction.

Obviously Foster has always been a good footballer but it often depends on your environment and the players around you as to how you perform. Certainly John Kosmina has brought the best out of him as evidenced by his tremendous goalscoring record this season.

On the other hand, look at Andy Harper who's having a marvellous season with the Breakers this year and was instrumental in our defeat two weeks ago at Newcastle.

Andy just couldn't produce this form

with us last season but this year he's one of the most consistent players in the N.S.L.

R.S. After watching Chelsea defeat third division Hull City 6-1 in the third round of the F.A. Cup two weeks ago, some people would say that Hull City would be good enough to win the N.S.L. Do you agree with this conclusion?

T.P. It may well be that Chelsea could beat any of our N.S.L. clubs by a similar margin but our teams certainly wouldn't go down without a fight. Remember, Chelsea has a very strong chance of winning the European Cup this season so a large defeat for any side is no disgrace.

The stirring performance by Hull City, despite the margin of their loss, is purely an indication of the depth of English football, something we could never duplicate in Australia due to our smaller population and competition from other sports to attract quality performers.

However, for those people fortunate to see some of our goals against South Melbourne, they would agree you couldn't see better in the Premier League.

R.S. In the 1996/97 N.S.L. grand final, 40,000 people packed into Suncorp. What are you doing to lift crowd support for the Strikers?

T.P. This season we've done it on the park but the crowds still aren't coming.

A good example was the our home match against Gippsland when we only drew 1,700 despite being top of the N.S.L..

I see one of the big problems in Queensland is the prolific number of sports football is competing with. The major sports attract the sponsorship dollars which in turn guarantees large media coverage so it's a catch 22.

Without the corporate dollars and commercial media interest it's difficult to gain the public's interest on a large scale

except for one off events like the grand final.

The answer to your question is we're doing everything possible to promote the game but we're caught in the vacuum of Australian football which drastically needs change, otherwise it will fall further behind the other sports.

R.S. What are the changes you're suggesting?

T.P. I believe privatisation of the clubs is the way, where boards are responsible to shareholders and the best expertise is employed to guarantee profitability and long term viability.

The Plan 21 is welcome but it has a long way to go to be really accepted and provide the catalyst for change to make football a truly professional sport in Australia.

R.S. Two years ago Neville Wran was determined to explore the potential of strengthening our ties with Asian football. How do you see our future in Asia?

T.P. Some people say we should get our own house in order first but I believe we have to broaden our horizons and establish closer relations with Japan, North and South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, China and other countries in the Far East.

A cup competition based on the European Cup format with two clubs representing each country has to be experimented with. After all we have the international game but we never promote it enough.

If there is a regular competition at club level, the corporate world will sit up and take notice and start putting their dollars into the game.

At the moment the game is stagnant because we never try anything different so let's assist Neville Wran in making good his intentions.

Like to advertise??



Call Sydney office

(02) 9806 0554 or

Melb (**Greg Blake**)

(03) 9370 1217

CONTINUED FROM PAGE FIVE

"From there I went to one of the biggest clubs, River Plate. River is such a massive club that they have a large number of sides underneath the main first team. My documentation did not enable me to play higher than in the River Plate fourth division side.

"But at training I would see some of the best players. Like Pablo Almar and Marcelo Salas. It was an experience. It was unbelievable watching them and I learned much from them. And they were great people too."

Clearly the jump from playing in the NSW Super League was a big jump for him, but the three years in the soccer-obsessed Argentina has refined his style.

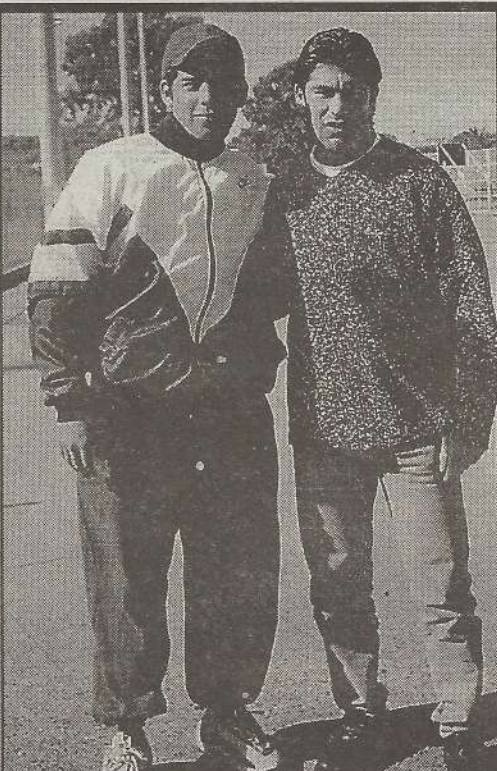
"I think I am a much different player now than I was when I first arrived in Argentina three years ago," he observed.

"Players in Argentina play with their head, while here it's all about the physical side of the game.

"For example, when I arrived in Argentina I would do a lot of running in a game. Now I use my head and so I play a lot smarter."

This was exactly the same comment made by Carlton's Brazilian Alex Moreira in a recent interview when he described the difference between Aussie and Argentine players.

At first Bustos lived alone but it was difficult for a youngster from Australia (he proudly calls himself Australian), so his



Robert Bustos with the then River Plate Marcelo Salas. Bustos has six months left on his contract at Nueva Chicago before he hopes to return to Australia.

cer," he said in obvious admiration. Everywhere you go. It's like a tradition in Argentina. TV, radio and press which is much more different than here.

"I've been looking in the papers today but there is not much really, is there?"

This is a notion award-winning film maker Rod Hay - who has made a number of videos on South American football - concurs with.

Hay said in Inside Soccer recently that 'football will dominate almost every home in South America.'

The image of Australian soccer is surprisingly good in Argentina. They saw our sterling efforts in the '93 qualifiers (when Robbie Slater was feted by Diego Maradona after the tie) and the Joeys' recent success in New Zealand.

"They (players and fans in Argentina) think Australia is ready to explode sooner or later as a soccer nation. I watched the Joeys on TV in

Argentina and the others were impressed too. I was really proud."

Living in such a country has given Bustos a clear view on why Argentina is so successful, and he feels Australia could learn from them.

"The Argentine sides are very close ... they grow up together from youth sides up. They know each other well and everyone breathes soccer.

"I think it's good if there are more kids training with the national team in Australia.

"In South America they get the experience with the big players and that helps them enormously in their future."

For now though he is happy to catch up with his family ("I've missed them a lot, that is why I think it's time to come home for next season.)

"I don't know the clubs in the NSL but I feel I have something to offer. Obviously Sydney is my first choice but I am used to travelling so I would look at offers all over Australia."

He is here until the end of the month and is training and by himself. Robert Bustos can be contacted by calling Inside Soccer.

ROBERT BUSTOS CLUB PROFILE:

JUNIORS:

Sydney City
Pagewood Botany
Apia
Randwick Botany
(Champion of Champions)
Leichhardt Tigers
Bankstown City Lions

SENIORS

Stanmore Hawks
River Plate
Nueva Chicago



dad came over for six months in the latter part of his first year.

"Living in Argentina is hard because in Buenos Aires it's very crowded," he noted.

"Anyway I met my manager (Juan Sanchez) and I went to Nueva Chicago, where I've been for two years."

He has started in around ten games, with a large number of sub appearances and two goals for his club. He has been training once sometimes twice a day.

Playing in the second division has made him a tougher player - it's a lot more physical, according to Bustos, than the first division where "you have more time on the ball."

And he is dedicated to his career, resisting the obvious delights of living in South America.

"Rest and recovery is important. I also go the gym in the afternoon if there is no second session. There's no time for partying for me. I want to be a good professional soccer player."

It was noted that Bustos was slightly built when playing here - obviously this is a part of his game he has worked on.

"It's a country that breathes soc-

CONTINUED FROM PAGE SEVEN

26-year-old Babic - who made his debut at Sydney United as a 16-year-old, also understands the psyche of our current national coach, and feels Farina's personal qualities will stand him in good stead.

"I know him and he really has a lot to offer to the national team. The benefits are that he knows the players well.

"At the same time too it's going to be tough, but knowing Frankie he loves challenges."

This season a quad strain has kept Babic out for the last four weeks, but he is on the comeback trail after playing in the Marconi Colts against Sydney United - he scored in the 4-2 loss.

"I was pretty sore after the game but it's getting much better although I didn't make the trip to Gippsland last weekend.

"This season at Marconi we have a nucleus of a side that we've had for three or so years. I think it's showing at Marconi. We know each other and have a close bond and I think that's important to getting a winning side."

In Babic's absence young Buddy Farah has performed very well at the heart of Eddie Krncevic's defence.

"Buddy Farah has potential and has done well; he's strong on the ball with strength in the air. And Sean Babic is a good young player too who deserved his recent call-up against Brazil.

So it's a team that knows each other well with good young players like Buddy, Severino and Invincible coming through."

On Saturday Marconi played Falcons, a side Babic always rates as dif-



like to maybe play overseas and possibly get back in the national team. I have got to start thinking about that again.

"Japan is a possibility but Europe is obviously good. The J-League looks interesting particularly with the World Cup being played there."

Babic's former central defensive partner at Sydney United, Tony Popovic, is currently enjoying a successful spell in the J-league with Hiroshima Sanfrece.

The current debate over the number of teams in our league is currently enjoying a fair slice of the media, with Babic keen to see a balanced decision.

"I think we have to realize the league has been the same year in year out, but the only way to move forward is to make some changes to make it more attractive. I can understand what the SA wants and also what the clubs want.

"It's exciting what they are trying to do but at the same time you have to find a balance with the clubs.

"It's a tough decision, I just think we have to come up with something in the best interests of the game as a whole."

It appears that the meeting on Saturday has come up with this sort of

pragmatic decision.

Marconi's Mark Babic now has his university degree to fall back on. He may choose to use it or concentrate full-time on his soccer.

At 26 it has given him options that will stand him in good stead when his playing days are over.

After all, not too many clubs are able to help once careers are over.

MARK BABIC Profile:

national representation

Socceroo caps: five
Olyroos (Atlanta '96)
Young Socceroos
(Portugal '91)
Joeys (Scotland '89)

club representation

Hurstville United (junior)
St George Districts (junior)
Sydney Croatia/United
Marconi Stallions



ficult.

"By charter it's not such a long trip, you can deal with that but Falcons are very competitive. Mind you last time we had some awful weather when we left Gippsland, there was this big storm. It was pretty scary flying out to Sydney. I worry about charter flights sometimes.

"At the moment though I am concentrating on the finals this year. I would



Cosmos star Harry James.

By Aidan Ormond

There's one thing Harry James' future wife does not have to worry about. Messy is not a word that freely comes to mind when describing him, in fact, he is extremely house-proud and is constantly cleaning up after his untidy fellow players, according to his flatmate and Cosmos striker Ivo de Jesus.

"I think we'll have to buy him an apron!" said de Jesus. "He's a bit like the mother around here and we (fellow flatmate and Cosmos player Gabriel Gonzales) are like the cheeky kids always leaving a mess."

I am getting a sort of 'Odd Couple' view of the household down there in Canberra, particularly as the fashion-conscious de Jesus is less than impressed with James' dress sense.

"Let's just say, he's stuck in the eighties is Harry," he said.

"But seriously, he's a good player, he gives it 100%, just don't get in his way if he's lost at FIFA 2000 on Playstation. He definitely does not like it."

Not surprisingly James' views differ markedly. "I dazzle in the fashion shops and on the park," he said with tongue firmly in cheek. "I can't believe he said that about me!"

Order in the House



On a more serious note James, 23, is keen to re-establish himself in the Cosmos side after a horror run of foot injuries over the last 18 months.

"My short-term goal this season was to simply get myself back into the NSL and be known again after a difficult run of injuries last year," he said.

"At the moment I have re-established myself in the position of wingback. I love being a striker but what is best for the side right now is me playing in this position."

"Anyway I like taking players on so it suits everyone right now," he noted after the Wollongong encounter on Sunday.

James has been impressed with the commitment of his side this year, a factor that has not always been the case in the three seasons he has been there.

"This is a different Cosmos this year. It's obvious we are more organised. Sadly due to injuries we have lost some of our

has disrupted our formation and this has taken its toll with some of our results of late.

"Although we started one way we have changed since then with our style and formation as a result of these injuries and also suspensions.

"But with the likes of P.J. Roberts (back after UK trials) and Alex Castro returning the depth is there, which augers well for the rest of the season."

Despite the loss to Wolves, 3-0 in Wollongong, on the weekend, he is still confident they can return to the six, a position they found themselves in earlier this campaign.

"I think a top six spot is possible because it's still early days. If you can make it in the top six as we have then we should be able to make it by the end of the season."

"I believe in goals. The Sports Psychologist working with us has helped with our mental preparation. I set goals and they are there and they discipline you."

James grew up in Newcastle and ended up playing with their NSL club, but, like a number of players over the years, left to try his luck elsewhere.

"I played with some of the good players they had like Thomas, Zane and Halpin. I think we all wanted to see brighter pastures.

"I wanted to get away because in Newcastle everyone wanted to have their opinion on you and your form, telling me how to play and how the team was.

"And there was a little negative talk so I just wanted to change and I was happy when Branko Culina brought me here.

"The only thing I care about is the coach's opinion. Having said that, Tommy Sermanni is probably the best and most approachable coach I've had.

"I've had a lot of setbacks in my career, with injuries (just missing out on the Young Socceroos was another), so I



James against Parra Power earlier this year.

players this season," he explained, "which



James in his Breakers shirt. He felt he needed to move away from Newcastle.

just take things week by week.

"But my life in Canberra is great. I will be getting married early next year to my girlfriend Gloria and I work for Soccer Canberra as a development officer as well as working for Cosmos as a marketing and promotions officer."

James has done a physical education degree from Newcastle University, his final year was deferred to concentrate on football.

"I enjoy working with kids, but my girlfriend is in tourism so she may open a restaurant, possibly in Canberra?"

One thing for sure, it will be clean as a whistle if Harry has anything to do with it. "Yeah, and Ivo could clean up after opening night!"

See Cosmos play next Tuesday against glamour side Northern Spirit in Canberra. Next Tuesday's Inside Soccer will have full preview of each game that night.

KIWIS AND SOLOMONS MEET IN OLYMPIC QUALIFYING FINAL

By Jeremy Ruane

New Zealand and the Solomon Islands were scheduled to meet in the final of the Oceania Olympic Qualifying Tournament at North Harbour Stadium on December 20.

While New Zealand's presence in the final will come as no surprise to anybody, the development of the game in nations such as the Solomon Islands and beaten semi-finalists Fiji is such that only a fool would take them lightly as we move into the 21st century - no longer are they the easy-beats of days past.

The Solomons have been particularly impressive, the best footballing team at the tournament, in fact. They totally outplayed Fiji in the key match in pool play, scoring a richly deserved 2-0 victory which, in all honesty, flattered the Fijians.

Brazilian coach Ailton Andrioli (formerly of the Adelaide Sharks?) has a wealth of promising young players at his disposal, but special mention should be made of midfield general Timothy Paoka,

Jerry Allen, Stanley Waita, and the Solomons' four-strong strike force of Commins Menapi, Duddley Seda, Patteson Daudau and the precociously talented Richard Kiriau, who has stood out with his splendid close control and finishing prowess.

While the Solomons Islands were scoring a deserved 3-1 win over Papua New Guinea in their semi-final, New Zealand's OlyWhites had a far from easy ride against Fiji, despite what the 5-2 scoreline suggests.

A highly talented squad on paper - five of Ken Dugdale's charges have already played for the All Whites - they were largely untroubled in group play against Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea, but rode their luck against a feisty Fijian combination, who only started to play when 2-0 down.

Gerard Davis, Graham Pearce, Jeff Campbell and Campbell Banks have been the stars who have shone brightest for

New Zealand in this tournament, while captain Ryan Nelsen has led by example, and Chris Bouckennooghe's displays in the target-man role have been exemplary.

Fiji came to this tournament having spent, we're told, some eighteen months preparing for it. Certainly, their football is far more disciplined than in the past, so the time and energy expended by coach Washington Gonzalez have not been in vain.

But for such a lengthy preparation, better was expected. They struggled to overcome Samoa 4-0 in the opening game, the first half being scoreless.

Then against Tonga, eight of their nine goals came in the first half, including four goals in the first twelve minutes. After this, it all went pear-shaped.

Of the remaining nations, Papua New Guinea were ordinary.

They were outplayed by a better footballing team in Vanuatu in pool play, but scored the goals which mattered.



Samoa were better value than both these teams, but had the misfortune to encounter Fiji and the Solomon Islands, to whom they only just succumbed, 2-1, in pool play. Tonga, however, were out of their depth.

That said, their goalkeeper, Emosi Finefeuiaki, was most impressive - indeed, the quality of goal-keeping at this tournament has been quite outstanding.

There are some excellent custodians coming through around the Pacific, not just in terms of shot-stopping - the positional play and handling of crosses by, amongst others, the Solomons' Fred Hale, Samoa's Sean Cahill and Papua New Guinea's David Aua, has been of the highest order.

The tournament winner is set to take on the fourth-best team in Africa over two legs next April to determine which nation will join Australia, Japan, Korea, Kuwait and the other eleven yet-to-be-found qualifiers at Sydney 2000.

CHELSEA SELF DESTRUCT AS LEEDS WIN AGAIN

The obituaries for Chelsea's title challenge are being prepared even before Christmas after David O'Leary's increasingly battle-hardened young Leeds side came of age with a 2-0 victory in a tempestuous encounter at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea now lie an incredible 17 points behind leaders Leeds and they ended a fiery confrontation in almost complete disarray after 20-year-old Stephen McPhail's first two senior goals and yet another red card for Frank Leboeuf.

In contrast, while the tackles and yellow cards were flying around, Leeds produced a display which made it seem as if a new era was dawning in the Premiership.

For while Chelsea may still pose a challenge in the Champions League, it is now surely O'Leary's side who will threaten Manchester United and Arsenal for the domestic title.

The Leeds youngsters showed commendable maturity as they coped with everything that Chelsea's experienced internationals threw at them - both legally and illegally - with Jonathon Woodgate in superlative form alongside Lucas Radebe.

Having soaked up all of the home side's early pressure, they hit back decisively through McPhail after 66 minutes and were then able to enjoy a relatively trouble-free final 20 minutes against 10 men before the young midfielder struck again late on.

Chelsea meanwhile ended the game with diminutive full-back Albert Ferrer and striker Chris Sutton in central defence after Marcel Desailly and substitute Jes Høgh were both taken off injured before Leboeuf self-destructed yet again.

The Frenchman, who was sent off at Elland Road last season, fouled Harry Kewell twice in the space of just seven minutes and stamped on the winger's ankle after the second offence.

His angry yet unfounded protestations of innocence continued on his way off the pitch as, red-faced with anger rather than embarrassment, he almost squared up to the Leeds dugout on the touchline.

Afterwards Leeds manager David O'Leary was keen to concentrate on praising his side's

ing his side's spirit, saying: "This is a very good win and a nice three points.

"I'm proud of my players. We had a difficult game on Wednesday (losing on penalties to Leicester in the fourth round of the Worthington Cup) but we fought hard and I am so delighted.

"We defended well, but you would expect that when you come to Stamford Bridge and remember who my young boys are playing against.

"We've gone top again. I don't know where we will finish, but we're enjoying being top.

"How long we will stay there I don't know, but we will give it a good go," he told Sky Sports.

Chelsea boss Gianluca Vialli, meanwhile, virtually threw in the towel on his side's title hopes.

A dejected Vialli conceded: "If we keep playing like that, we won't win the title, but at least we will get a place in Europe and give our supporters something to cheer about.

"It's going to be difficult to win the title. There are a lot of teams to overtake, but we've got to keep going and work hard and hopefully, sooner or later, things will get better.

"Nothing's going our way, though, but when things get complicated you see whether you are men. We've got to roll our sleeves up and put the situation right."

Vialli, meanwhile, refused to castigate Leboeuf for his dismissal, although admitted the Frenchman was wrong to stamp on Kewell's ankle after initially tripping him to earn his second yellow card



Ryan Giggs celebrates one of his goals in a 4-2 win.

and ultimately the red.

Vialli added: "What he did was not a good thing. But he did it and we will deal with it during the week and not in front of the cameras.

"But he is as disappointed as all the other players in the dressing room."

A relieved John Gregory saw his struggling Aston Villa side miss two penalties yet still come from behind to beat

Sheffield Wednesday 2-1 at Villa Park.

Czech keeper Pavel Srnec looked like being Wednesday's hero when he saved two penalties from Dion Dublin and Paul Merson.

But a late goal by ex-Wednesday player Ian Taylor sealed the points for Villa to move the team away from the relegation zone.

Wednesday had taken the lead when Gilles de Bilde netted his fifth league goal of the season from the spot.

Paul Merson curled a shot into the top right-hand corner of the net for Villa's equaliser with 20 minutes left.

Manchester United beat West Ham 4-2 in a thriller at Upton Park.

United gave the Hammers a football lesson in the first half. Roy Keane and David Beckham set up Dwight Yorke to head past Shaka Hislop from three yards for the opening goal after nine minutes. Just three minutes later Yorke became the provider, flicking the ball to Ryan Giggs whose left-footed shot did the rest.

Giggs got his second after 20 minutes, his 25-yard left-footer giving Shaka Hislop no chance. Paolo di Canio scored twice, either side of the break, but Yorke and Nicky Butt put United back in the driving seat.

Arsenal were held 1-1 by a valiant Wimbledon side at Highbury.

The Dons shocked Arsenal with an early goal. Marcus Gayle crossed for Carl Cort to net after just seven minutes. After intense pressure Thierry Henry snatched the equaliser on the hour.

Middlesbrough came from behind to beat Tottenham 2-1.

Central defender Ramon Vega gave George Graham's side a seventh minute lead. Christian Ziege fired home a left-foot shot from 10 yards for his fifth goal of the season and then crossed for Brian Deane to score the winner after an Ian Walker fumble.

Watford's dismal run continued when they lost 3-1 to Everton at Vicarage Road. Nicky Barmby put Everton in front in the fourth minute. Kevin Campbell set up Hutchison to net the second after 37 minutes.

Although Michel Ngonge scored a brilliant individual goal for the Hornets, a David Unsworth penalty sealed the points for Everton.

A Kevin Phillips double saw Sunderland deservedly beat Southampton 2-0 at the Stadium of Light.

The first goal came on the half-hour. Michael Gray's free kick found Niall Quinn, who headed on for Phillips to notch his 17th goal of the season. Phillips had a second-half penalty saved by Watford's substitute keeper Neil Moss before he scored his second.

Dean Saunders scored the opener as Bradford beat Newcastle 2-0. A headed goal by David Wetherall doubled City's advantage even though their visitors dominated.

Liverpool beat Coventry 2-0 at Anfield. Michael Owen gave the Reds the lead on the stroke of half time. Titi Camara scored a great second for the Reds as Liverpool stay fifth.

The East Midlands derby between Leicester and Derby ended 1-0 to the visitors. It was a scrappy game, but the Rams battled well. A Tim Flowers error allowed Darryl Powell to score with a speculative 35-yard effort

Arsenal (0) 1 Wimbledon (1) 1
Arsenal: Manninger, Dixon, Luzhny, Grimandi, Winterburn (Suker 73), Overmars, Ljungberg, Petit, Silvinho, Henry, Kanu.
 Subs Not Used: Keown, Hughes, Lukic, Vernazza.
 Booked: Petit.
 Goals: Henry 61.
Wimbledon: Sullivan, Cunningham, Andersen, Hreidarsson, Kimble, Earle, Roberts, Euell, Gayle (Hughes 27), Hartson, Cort (Andersen 67).
 Subs Not Used: Ardley, Heald, Badir.
 Booked: Hartson.
 Goals: Cort 7.
 Att: 38,052

Aston Villa (0) 2 Sheff Wed (1) 1
Aston Villa: James, Ehio, Southgate, Barry, Watson, Taylor, Boateng, Merson, Wright (Joachim 39), Dublin (Calderwood 86), Carbone (Vassell 81).
 Subs Not Used: Stone, Cutler.
 Booked: Taylor.
 Goals: Merson 69, Taylor 82.
Sheff Wed: Srnec, Atherton, Walker, Thome, Nolan, Alexandersson, Jonk (Sibon 82), Quinn (Haslam 56), Sonner, De Bilde, Booth.
 Subs Not Used: Cresswell, Nicolson, Pressman.
 Booked: Sonner, Quinn.
 Goals: De Bilde 20 pen.
 Att: 23,885
 Ref: S Bennett (Orpington).
Bradford (0) 2 Newcastle (0) 0
Bradford: Clarke, Halle, Wetherall, O'Brien, Myers, Lawrence, McCall, Windass, Sharpe

(Beagrie 78), Mills, Saunders.
 Subs Not Used: Davison, Westwood, Blake, Whalley.
 Booked: Lawrence, Saunders.
 Goals: Saunders 56, Wetherall 71.
Newcastle: Harper, Barton, Solano (Dyer 70), Hughes, Pistone, Helder, Speed, Lee (Fumaca 84), Shearer, Ferguson, Gallacher (Glass 73).
 Subs Not Used: Given, Ketsbaia.
 Booked: Helder.
 Att: 18,286
 Ref: N Barry (Scunthorpe).
Leicester (0) 0 Derby (0) 1
Leicester: Flowers, Taggart, Walsh, Elliott, Savage, Impey (Cottee 72), Izzet, Zagorakis, Oakes, Eadie, Heskey.
 Subs Not Used: Gunnlaugsson, Gilchrist, Campbell, Arphexad.
 Booked: Izzet, Zagorakis.
Derby: Poorn, Powell, Dorigo, Prior (Schnoor 87), Delap, Johnson, Laursen, Robinson (Strupar 78), Burley, Elliott, Burton.
 Subs Not Used: Hault, Christie, Kinkiadze.
 Booked: Burton, Prior, Powell, Johnson.
 Goals: Powell 69.
 Att: 18,581
 Ref: D Elleray (Harrow-on-the-Hill).
Liverpool (1) 2 Coventry (0) 0
Liverpool: Westerveld, Gerrard, Henchoz, Hyypia, Matteo, Thompson (Smicer 36), Hamann, Carragher, Berger, Owen, Camara (Heggem 86), Smicer (Murphy 88).
 Subs Not Used: Song, Nielsen.
 Goals: Owen 45, Camara 74.
Coventry: Hedman, Telfer, Williams, Breen, Froggatt, Chipko, Palmer, McAllister, Hadji (Normann 74), Keane, Whelan (Roussel 70).

Subs Not Used: Eustace, Ogrizovic, Gustafsson.
 Booked: Keane, Breen.
 Att: 44,024
 Ref: A D'Urso (Billerica).
Middlesbrough (1) 2 Tottenham (1) 1
Middlesbrough: Schwarzer, Stockdale, Vickers, Festa, O'Neill, Maddison, Mustoe, Juninho, Ziege (Summerbell 90), Ricard (Armstrong 85), Deane.
 Subs Not Used: Beresford, Gavin, Marinelli.
 Booked: Vickers, O'Neill.
 Goals: Ziege 34, Deane 67.
Tottenham: Walker, Young, Campbell, Perry, Vega, Taricco, Freund (Sherwood 32), Nielsen, Ginola (Edinburgh 46), Armstrong (Fox 82), Iversen.
 Subs Not Used: Baardsen, Dominguez.
 Sent Off: Nielsen (90).
 Booked: Ginola, Taricco, Young, Sherwood, Nielsen.
 Goals: Vega 7.
 Att: 33,129
 Ref: S Dunn (Bristol).
Sunderland (1) 2 Southampton (0) 0
Sunderland: Sorensen, Makin, Butler, Bould, Gray, Summerbee, Roy (Williams 65), McCann, Schwarz (Kilbane 87), Quinn, Phillips.
 Subs Not Used: Marriott, Reddy, Rae.
 Booked: Makin, Phillips.
 Goals: Phillips 30, 90.
Southampton: Jones (Moss 33), Tessem (Beattie 49), Lundekvam, Richards, Benali, Ripley (Le Tissier 66), Soltvedt, Oakley, Dodd, Kachoul, Pahars.
 Subs Not Used: Davies, Boa Morte.
 Booked: Kachoul, Benali, Beattie, Le Tissier.

Lundekvam.
 Att: 40,860
 Ref: M Reid (Birmingham).
Watford (0) 1 Everton (2) 3
Watford: Chamberlain, Cox, Palmer, Page, Robinson, Hyde (Foley 88), Williams, Johnson, Miller, Ngonge, Smith.
 Subs Not Used: Day, Gibbs, Bakalli, Perpetuini.
 Sent Off: Cox (89).
 Booked: Johnson, Miller, Robinson.
 Goals: Ngonge 60.
Everton: Gerrard, Cleland (Watson 68), Weir, Dunne, Unsworth, Barmby, Xavier, Collins, Pembroke, Campbell, Hutchison.
 Subs Not Used: Ball, Moore, Grant, Simonsen.
 Booked: Gerrard.
 Goals: Barmby 4, Hutchison 37, Unsworth 86 pen.
 Att: 17,346
 Ref: A Wilkie (Chester Le Street).
West Ham (1) 2 Man Utd (3) 4
West Ham: Hislop, Lomas, Ferdinand, Ruddock, Minto, Sinclair, Foe, Lampard, Keller, Di Canio, Wanchope.
 Subs Not Used: Forrest, Kitson, Margas, Newton, Angus. Booked: Di Canio.
 Goals: Di Canio 23, 52.
Man Utd: Van Der Gouw, G. Neville, Silvestre, Stam, Irwin (P. Neville 46), Beckham (Butt 76), Keane, Scholes, Giggs, Sheringham, Yorke.
 Subs Not Used: Taibi, Berg, Solskjaer.
 Goals: Yorke 9, Giggs 13, 19, Yorke 82.
 Att: 26,037
 Ref: U Rennie (Sheffield)

WOLVES CLIMB LADDER WITH DERBY WIN

Frenchman Ludovic Pollet scored his first goal in English football to give Wolves a 2-1 victory over local Nationwide Division One rivals Birmingham at Molineux.

Pollet, a bargain early season buy from Le Havre, climbed above his markers and keeper Kevin Poole to power home a priceless 63rd-minute header from Andy Sinton's left wing corner.

The goal completed Wolves' comeback from a 1-0 deficit and a sloppy performance in the opening half hour.

The visitors were more than a match for the hosts at that point having highlighted their sprightly start by taking the lead in the 16th minute.

Shortly after Purse had headed over the bar from close-range, a through-ball from Gill released Martin O'Connor for a shot that was well blocked by keeper Michael Oakes.

Fortunately for Blues, the ball rebounded to Bryan Hughes, who rolled an angled shot into an empty net for his fifth goal of the season.

After Darren Bazeley had seen a rising drive tipped over by Kevin Poole and Ade Akinbiyi and Neil Emblen had missed the target with good chances, Wolves equalised in the 40th minute.

Sinton crossed superbly from the left, Poole failed to deal with it properly under strong pressure from Michael Branch, and Akinbiyi nodded home his 10th Wolves goal in 19 appearances.

Wolves might have had a penalty when Simon Osborn appeared to be tripped in the area by Rowett in a heated second half of five bookings, four of them against Birmingham.

Pollet was to have the last word in a scrappy contest, though his goal almost being levelled by a skied volley from Martin Grainger in injury-time.

Cup giant-killers Tranmere were brought back down to earth as Norwich battled back from a goal down to take the points with a 2-1 win at Prenton Park.

Rovers went into the game on the back of two great performances against

Premiership opposition in the space of a week, having dumped West Ham out of the FA Cup and then beaten Middlesbrough to reach the semi-finals of the Worthington Cup four days later.

But, despite taking the lead through captain Wayne Allison after 14 minutes, they were made to pay for failing to turn their possession into goals as Iwan Roberts equalised just after the hour and then sealed the win with a last-minute strike.

Just when it seemed the game was destined for a draw Chris Llewellyn charged into the box, and as his effort was blocked the ball fell to Roberts who gleefully slotted into the net to give the Canaries successive league victories.

Clyde Wijnhard took his goal tally to 13 for the season with a brace against Grimsby to keep Huddersfield on top.

The Dutchman opened the scoring after six minutes and added a second after 25 before Paul Groves pulled one back for the Mariners.

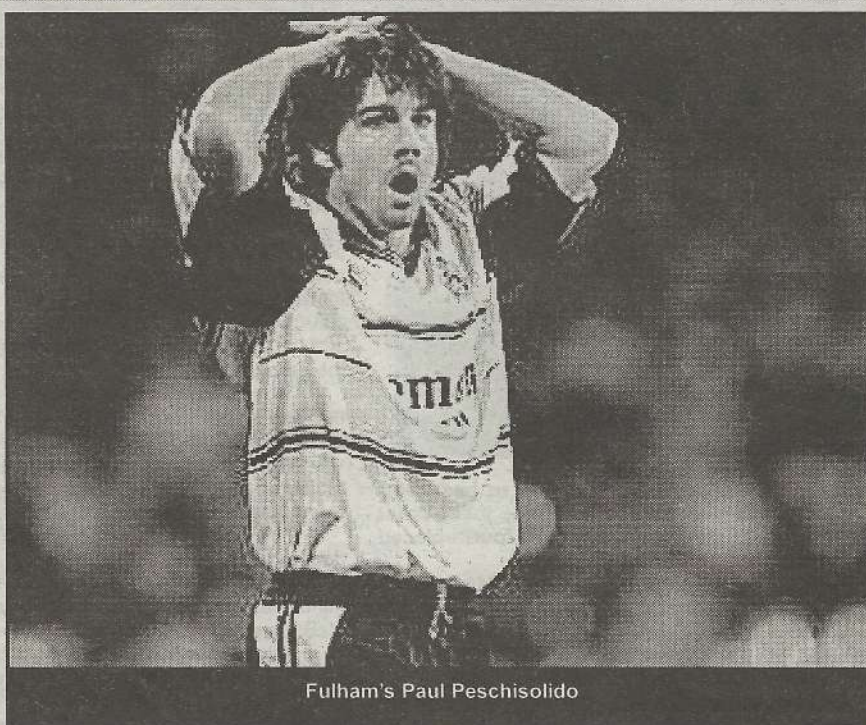
Marcus Stewart, with his first goal since November 2, sealed a 3-1 win and maintained a record-breaking 14 match unbeaten run at home in the league.

Robert Taylor notched his first goal for Manchester City since moving from Gillingham as bottom of the table Swindon were wiped out at Maine Road.

Jamie Pollock put the Blues on the way before Taylor's debut effort and Shaun Goater completed the scoring after 59 minutes.

A Craig Hignett hat-trick kept Barnsley on the heels of the leaders but it was a close run thing at Oakwell as struggling Walsall, one off the bottom, twice equalised before the former Middlesbrough man struck the killer blow seconds from time.

Worthington Cup semi-finalists Bolton went down to a shock home defeat by Stockport who kept their first clean sheet in 17 games. Tony Dinning's eighth of the season on the hour proved the crucial marker which keeps County in the promotion pack.



Fulham's Paul Peschisolido

De Freitas scored a consolation goal. Larus Sigurdsson and Matt Carbon were the men to get their marching orders.

Stern John's 75th minute goal gave Nottingham Forest a priceless win over a Crewe side which had lost only one of their last six.

Queen's Park Rangers remain unbeaten at home in 14 games after a goalless draw with Charlton despite having Chris Kiwomya sent off for a second bookable offence.

The other London derby at Selhurst Park between Crystal Palace and Fulham also failed to produce a goal.

Portsmouth, nine games without a win, stay deep in trouble after a goalless encounter with a resurgent Port Vale, now unbeaten in seven

Arjan de Zeeuw's first of the season was enough to keep Wigan on top of the Nationwide Division Two table and preserve the league's only unbeaten record.

The former Barnsley centre back struck in the 76th minute to sink battling Brentford.

But it was not a convincing performance from a side which has not suffered a loss in 21 league matches.

Preston stayed level on points at the top with a 3-0 hammering of close rivals Blackpool.

David Eyres netted twice against his old club, in the 71st and 86th minutes, and Michael Appleton put the icing on the cake.

Former England winger Mark Walters came up trumps for Bristol Rovers with the winner against Stoke.

The Pirates trailed to Kevin Keen's 52nd-minute opener. But Jason Roberts equalised with his 11th of the season before Walters sealed the win that keeps Rovers a point behind the front runners.

Millwall's Richard Sadler notched the lone goal at the New Den to sink promotion rivals Notts County, his 79th-minute effort the only difference in a close encounter.

Burnley, Cup conquerors of Derby, were brought down to earth when Cardiff City led through an own goal by Michael Thomas.

But Gordon Armstrong equalised after 34 minutes and Lenny Johnrose set Turf Moor alight with the winner after 68 minutes.

Wrexham are now 13 games without a League win but battled gamely at Reading to grab a point.

Peter Grant put the home side in front after 39 minutes, Gareth Owen levelled on the stroke of half-time and Neil Roberts briefly gave the Welshmen the lead before Keith Scott equalised.

Bury ended a run of eight matches without a win with a 2-0 success at Scunthorpe, with second-half goals courtesy of Richard Logan, who put through his own net after 48 minutes, and Paul Barnes 20 minutes from time.

Cambridge United made it 21 games since they kept a clean sheet with a home defeat by Oldham.

The Latics were two up through Mark Allott, after 11 minutes, and Neil Adams, 34 minutes, before Martin Butler netted twice to make his tally 14 for the season.

But Lee Duxbury produced the winner after 78 minutes to push United further into trouble.

Bournemouth had the best win of the day a 4-0 trouncing of Oxford United who had Neil McGowan sent off.

Steve Fletcher (18), Steve Robinson with a penalty (38), Claus Jorgensen (48) and James Hayter, a minute from time, grabbed the goals.

ALEX FERGUSON

Managing My Life

My Autobiography

Including the Unique Treble Triumph

Want to win a copy of Alex Ferguson's autobiography 'Managing My Life'?

Answer the question at the bottom and cut this ad out and send it to Inside Soccer PO BOX 3889 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124. Winner will be the first correct answer drawn Dec 27. The more entries the better chance you have.

How many trophies did Manchester United win last season?

Name:

Address:

TOP DUO CLEAR AWAY FROM PACK



Rangers' Amoroso

Celtic had to come from behind to beat third placed Dundee United 4-1 to keep just a point behind Rangers who thumped fourth-placed Motherwell 5-1.

Celtic struggled in the first-half against United who beat them earlier in the season.

Joaquim Ferraz headed the visitors in front after 27 minutes, but Celtic wasted a great chance to get level when Mark Viduka hit the post with a penalty.

But it all came good in the second half with Celtic scoring twice in two minutes to turn the game on its head.

Regi Blinker pulled one back with a cool finish and then Viduka made amends for his earlier penalty miss to make it 2-1.

Lubo Moravcik made it 3-1 midway through the second half after good play on the left from Viduka.

The margin could have been even bigger as Celtic went in search of more, but a combination of the wood-

work and good goalkeeping from Alan Combe kept them at bay until Mark Burchill scored the fourth in injury time.

Rangers swamped Motherwell 5-1 with Andrei Kanchelskis and Billy Dodds both scoring twice to hand them their first league defeat in nine matches.

But it was a freak goal that put them ahead when Kanchelskis scored with a low cross which deceived Ben Kemble and Goram and crept into the corner of the net.

Lorenzo Amoroso shot home the second shortly afterwards when Dodds was fouled at the edge of the box by Jed Brannan and Albertz took the short free-kick for the Italian to fire home.

Dodds then scored his first goal for the club - his 12th of the season - with a calm finish to effectively take the game out of Motherwell's reach.

Dodds scored his second goal early in the second half and Kanchelskis made it 5-0 in the 57th minute in another rampant performance by the champions.

Don Goodman headed a late consolation for Motherwell from close-range after good work by Pat Nevin and Steve McMillan.

At Rugby Park, St Johnstone put Kilmarnock in deeper trouble with a 2-1 victory.

John-Paul McBride gave the Perth side a 16th-minute lead - his first for the club - and nine minutes later McBride set up John O'Neil for the second.

Kilmarnock pulled a goal back through Paul Wright four minutes after the break, but Saints held on for victory to pull further away from Killie.

For Bobby Williamson's side, the mid-season break cannot come quickly enough as they have managed only two league wins in 17 Premier games so far and have not won in the Premier since September.

The Dundee v Aberdeen game was called off 75 minutes before kick-off due to an ice-bound pitch.

Hearts play Hibs tomorrow to complete the weekend's Premier programme - the last Edinburgh derby of the century.

Celtic (0) 4 Dundee Utd (1) 1
Celtic: Gould, Stubbs, Tebily, Mjallby, McNamara, Berkovic, Lambert, Wieghorst (Petrov 36), Blinker (Petta 78), Viduka, Moravcik (Burchill 78).
Subs Not Used: Kerr, Wright.
Goals: Blinker 47, Viduka 50, Moravcik 61, Burchill 89.

Dundee Utd: Combe, Pascual, De Vos, Partridge, Worrell, Easton, Skoldmark (Byrne 86), Preget, Venetis (McConalogue 64), Thompson (Smith 60), Ferraz.
Subs Not Used: Onstad, Malpas.
Booked: Ferraz.
Goals: Ferraz 26.
Att: 59,120
Ref: Jim McCluskey (Scotland).

Kilmarnock (0) 1 St Johnstone (2) 2
Kilmarnock: Meldrum, Canero, McGowne, Lauchlan, Hay, Holt, Durrant (Mitchell 77), Cocard, Reilly, Wright (Vareille 69), Smith (Jeffrey 85).
Subs Not Used: Watt, Hessey.
Booked: Wright, Cocard.
Goals: Wright 49.

St Johnstone: Main, McQuillan, Weir, Kane, Bolland, O'Neil, Griffin, O'Halloran, McBride (McAnespie

85), Jones, Lowndes (McMahon 72).

Subs Not Used: Robertson, O'Boyle, McCluskey.

Booked: Weir.
Goals: McBride 16, O'Neil 28.
Att: 6,002
Ref: George Clyde (Scotland).

Motherwell (0) 1 Rangers (3) 5

Motherwell: Goram, Doesburg, Kemble, Teale, McMillan, Twaddle (Nicholas 59), Valakari, Brannan, Townsley (Nevin 46), Spencer, Goodman.
Subs Not Used: Woods, Thomas, Hammell.

Booked: Goodman, Brannan, Spencer, McMillan.
Goals: Goodman 88.

Rangers: Myhre, Vidmar, Amoroso, Moore, Numan, Kanchelskis, Ferguson (Reyna 62), Albertz (McCann 66), Van Bronckhorst, Wallace, Dodds (Durie 74).

Subs Not Used: Charbonnier, Nicholson.
Goals: Kanchelskis 25, Amoroso 34, Dodds 45, 49, Kanchelskis 57.

Att: 13,102

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Leeds	18	13	2	3	32	19	41	13
Man Utd	17	12	3	2	44	23	39	21
Sunderland	18	11	4	3	33	17	37	16
Arsenal	18	11	3	4	32	17	36	15
Liverpool	18	10	3	5	26	14	33	12
Leicester	18	9	2	7	26	24	29	2
Tottenham	17	8	3	6	26	22	27	4
Middlesbrough	18	8	3	7	23	25	27	-2
West Ham	17	7	4	6	19	18	25	1
Chelsea	16	7	3	6	21	17	24	4
Everton	18	6	6	6	28	28	24	0
Aston Villa	18	6	4	8	16	20	22	-4
Coventry	18	5	6	7	23	20	21	3
Wimbledon	18	4	9	5	28	30	21	-2
Newcastle	18	5	4	9	28	32	19	-4
Southampton	17	4	5	8	20	27	17	-7
Bradford	17	4	4	9	15	25	16	-10
Derby	18	4	3	11	16	29	15	-13
Watford	18	3	2	13	14	36	11	-22
Sheff Wed	17	1	3	13	15	42	6	-27

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Huddersfield	23	14	4	5	42	23	46	19
Man City	23	14	3	6	35	19	45	16
Ipswich	23	12	6	5	40	26	42	14
Charlton	22	12	5	5	38	24	41	14
Barnsley	22	12	3	7	42	35	39	7
Stockport	23	10	7	6	28	30	37	-2
Fulham	23	8	11	4	24	18	35	6
QPR	23	8	9	6	32	28	33	4
Birmingham	22	8	8	6	33	25	32	8
Wolverhampton	22	8	8	6	25	21	32	4
Bolton	23	8	7	8	32	27	31	5
Norwich	22	8	7	7	21	20	31	1
Blackburn	22	7	9	6	27	22	30	5
Tranmere	23	8	5	10	32	34	29	-2
West Brom	23	5	11	7	23	27	26	-4
Crystal Palace	23	6	8	9	30	36	26	-6
Crewe	23	7	5	11	23	30	26	-7
Grimsby	23	7	5	11	24	38	26	-14
Nottm Forest	23	6	7	10	24	27	25	-3
Sheff Utd	23	6	6	11	27	39	24	-12
Port Vale	23	5	8	10	26	31	23	-5
Portsmouth	23	5	7	11	25	36	22	-11
Walsall	23	4	7	12	21	37	19	-16
Swindon	23	3	8	12	16	37	17	-21

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Wigan	21	12	9	0	41	19	45	22
Preston	21	13	6	2	36	18	45	18
Bristol Rovers	21	13	5	3	29	13	44	16
Millwall	22	12	6	4	35	22	42	13
Burnley	21	11	7	3	28	13	40	15
Gillingham	20	11	5	4	38	23	38	15
Notts County	22	11	5	6	35	24	38	11
Stoke	21	9	7	5	31	20	34	11
Brentford	22	9	7	6	32	28	34	4
Bournemouth	22	9	4	9	33	33	31	0
Luton	21	8	4	9	25	30	28	-5
Bury	21	6	9	6	31	27	27	4
Wycombe	22	6	8	8	25	29	26	-4
Bristol City	21	5	10	6	26	27	25	-1
Oldham	21	6	5	10	23	28	23	-5
Oxford Utd	21	5	6	10	19	28	21	-9
Wrexham	21	4	9	8	21	34	21	-13
Colchester	22	5	6	11	25	44	21	-19
Scunthorpe	21	5	5	11	21	35	20	-14
Cardiff	21	4	7	10	23	30	19	-7
Reading	20	4	6	10	25	39	18	-14
Blackpool	21	3	7	11	21	38	16	-17
Cambridge Utd	21	3	6	12	30	39	15	-9
Chesterfield	21	2	7	12	12	24	13	-12

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Barnet	22	13	5	4	33	22	44	11
Rotherham	22	12	5	5	31	14	41	17
Darlington	22	11	6	5	29	16	39	13
Swansea	22	11	5	6	22	14	38	8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Northampton	22	11	4	7	24	17	37	7
Torquay	21	10	5	6	26	21	35	5
Peterborough	20	10	4	6	28	22	34	6
Plymouth	21	9	7	5	28	22	34	6
Hartlepool	22	10	3	9	28	22	33	6
Macclesfield	22	9	6	7	32	29	33	3
Halifax	22	9	4	9	23	25	31	-2
Rochdale	21	8	6	7	18	14	30	4
Southend	22	8	5	9	29	32	29	-3
Lincoln City	21	7	7	7	32	32	28	0
Brighton	21	7	6	8	30	26	27	4
Cheltenham	21	7	5	9	18	19	26	-1
Hull	21	7	5	9	20	22	26	-2
Exeter	21	7	4	10	23	27	25	-4
York	21	6	7	8	20	27	25	-7
Mansfield	20	6	5	9	25	29	23	-4
Shrewsbury	22	6	4	12	21	34	22	-13
Carlisle	22	4	7	11	19	35	19	-16
Chester	22	4	4	14	19	40	16	-21
Leyton Orient	21	3	5	13	14	31	14	-17

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Rangers	15	13	1	1	43	13	40	30
Celtic	17	13	0	4	52	15	39	37
Dundee Utd	18	9	3	6	24	26	30	-2
Motherwell	17	7	6	4	28	30	27	-2
Hibernian	19	6	6	7	29	33	24	-4
Hearts	17	5	5	7	26	26	20	0
St Johnstone	17	5	4	8	17	22	19	-5
Dundee	16	6	0	10	20	27	18	-7
Kilmarnock	17	2	6	9	16	26	12	-10
Aberdeen	17	2	3	12	17	54	9	-37

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
St Mirren	19	13	4	2	47	22	43	25
Dunfermline	19	11	7	1	37	16	40	21
Falkirk	19	9	4	6	31	28	31	3
Raith	17	8	5	4	33	26	29	7
Livingston	18	8	5	5	32	25	29	7
Inverness CT	19	5	6	8	24	30	21	-6
Airdrie	19	5	6	8	16	29	21	-13
Ayr	19	5	5	9	19	28	20	-9
Greenock Morton	19	4	4	11	26	35	16	-9
Clydebank	18	0	4	14	12	38	4	-26

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Clyde	18	9	5	4	24	13	32	11
Alloa	18	7	9	2	23	18	30	5
Ross County	17	8	4	5	19	15	28	4
Stranraer	18	6	9	3	25	17	27	8
Arbroath	18	7	6	5	30	27	27	3
Stenhousemuir	18	6	4	8	21	24	22	-3
Partick	18	6	4	8	15	19	22	-4
Stirling	18	6	3	9	35	34	21	1
Hamilton	17	4	6	7	18	23	18	-5
Queen of South	18	3	4	11	19	39	13	-20

BESTIE

Want to win a copy of George Best's biography?

Answer the question at the bottom and cut this ad out and

send it to Inside Soccer PO BOX 3889 PARRAMATTA NSW

2124. First correct answer drawn Dec 27. The more

entries the better chance you have.

In what year did Manchester United first

win the European Champions Cup?

Name:

Address:

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE - ROUND THIRTEEN

ADELAIDE FORCE v FOOTBALL KINGZ

- 1 Vilson Knezevic
- 2 Ivan Zelic
- 3 Alex Tobin
- 4 Carlo Talladira
- 5 Damian Mori
- 6 Carl Veart
- 7 Nick Sabljak
- 8 Aurelio Vidmar
- 9 Nathan Day
- 10 John Fusco
- 11 Michael Cartwright
- 12 Louis Brain
- 13 Matthew Kemp
- 14 Angelo Costanzo
- 15 Bradley Hassell
- 16 Dong Ki Kim
- 17 Jonathan Lihou



- 1 Michael Utting
- 2 Che Bunce
- 3 Riki Van Steeden
- 4 Fabio Macolino
- 5 Jonathon Perry
- 6 Marcus Stergiopoulos
- 7 Wynton Rufer
- 8 Chris Jackson
- 9 Fred de Jong
- 10 Dino Mennillo
- 11 Robbie Middleby
- 12 Harry Ngata
- 13 Levent Osman
- 14 Batrum Suri
- 15 Ivan Vicelich
- 16 Lee Jones
- 17 Maciel Edmilson
- 18 Stuart Riddle
- 19 Leigh Kenyon
- 20 Jason Batty
- 21 David Moya
- 22 Aaron Silva
- 23 Simon Eaddy



Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium - Tuesday 28 December 8.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 1 Force wins: 0 Kingz wins: 1 Draws: 0
 Last Week: Force 0-3 away win over Spirit
 Kingz 3-3 home draw with Knights

CANBERRA COSMOS v NORTHERN SPIRIT

- 1 David Milin
- 2 Toplica Popovich
- 3 Danny Burt
- 4 Nicholas Purdue
- 5 Jason Polak
- 6 David Winnie
- 7 Daniel Watkins
- 8 Alex Castro
- 9 Michael Musitano
- 10 David Arranz
- 11 Brian Hamilton
- 12 Harry James
- 13 Glen Kolpak
- 14 Ilija Prenzovski
- 15 Robbie Hooker
- 16 Nikola Mrdja
- 17 Geoff Howarth
- 18 Grant Barlow
- 19 Scott Conlon
- 20 Elliot Zwangobani
- 21 PJ Roberts
- 22 Ivo De Jesus
- 23 Gabriel Gonzalez
- 24 Angelo Konstantinou



- 1 John Perosh
- 2 Robert Enes
- 3 Matthew Langdon
- 4 Matthew Bingley
- 5 Mark Rudan
- 6 Luke Casserley
- 7 Robbie Slater
- 8 Tony Perinich
- 9 David Seal
- 10 Troy Cranney
- 11 Simon Catanzaro
- 12 Phillip Moss
- 13 Shane Lyons
- 14 Anthony Faria
- 15 Paul Bilokapic
- 16 Paul Wearne
- 17 Jess Van Stratten
- 18 Michael Cunico
- 19 Paul Henderson
- 20 Adam Snyder
- 21 Elvis Olic
- 22 Ryan Griffiths
- 23 Jack Sobczyk
- 24 Adam Griffiths
- 25 Abbas Saad
- 26 Ian Crook



Venue: Bruce Stadium - Tuesday 28 December 7.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 2 Cosmos wins: 1 Spirit wins: 1 Draws: 0
 Last Week: Cosmos 2-0 away loss to Wolves
 Spirit 0-3 home loss to Force

CARLTON v NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

- 1 Dean Anastasiadis
- 2 Dave McPherson
- 3 Craig Deans
- 4 Simon Colosimo
- 5 Sean Douglas
- 6 Andrew Marth
- 7 Stuart Slater
- 8 Mark Atkinson
- 9 Alex Moreira
- 10 Lubo Lapsansky
- 11 Archie Thompson
- 12 Mike Conroy
- 13 Steve Martin
- 14 John Markovski
- 15 Con Anthopoulos
- 16 David Terminello
- 17 Joe Tricarico
- 18 David Della Rocca
- 19 Serdar Pir
- 20 Adrian Gagalj
- 21 Andrew Packer
- 22 Angelo Motsiopoulos
- 23 Colin Azzopardi
- 24 Joshua Kennedy



- 1 Bob Catlin
- 2 Shane Pryce
- 3 Andrew Roberts
- 4 Adam Sanderson
- 5 Todd McManus
- 6 Glenn Sprod
- 7 Travis Dodd
- 8 Mark Wilson
- 9 Chris Tancheski
- 10 John Buonavoglia
- 11 Luke Tomich
- 12 Robert Angievski
- 13 Brad Wiczorek
- 14 Greg Owens
- 15 Joshua Ferguson
- 16 Vasko Trpceviski
- 17 Paul Wheeler
- 18 Andrew Harper
- 19 Chad Mansley
- 20 Bradley Swancott
- 21 Peter Juchniewicz
- 22 Glen Moore
- 23 Damien Smith
- 24 Jason Kos



Venue: Olympic Park - Tuesday 28 December 1999 7.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 4 Carlton: 2 Breakers wins: 1 Draws: 1
 Last Week: Carlton 1-2 away win over South Melbourne
 Breakers 3-2 home win over Glory

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS v GIPPSLAND FALCONS

- 1 Joey Rayher
- 2 Ivan Jolic
- 3 Ante Kovacevic
- 4 Jason Vukadin
- 5 John Didulica
- 6 Mark Silic
- 7 Dragi Nasteviski
- 8 Ivan Kelic
- 9 Paul Urlovic
- 10 Mijo Trupkovic
- 11 Murtala Toyin Abbas
- 12 Lance Plunkett
- 13 Paul Magdic
- 14 Ransford Banini
- 15 Alex Kriatzoglou
- 16 Brandon Vassalo
- 17 Roddy Vargas
- 18 Adrian Cervinski
- 19 Martin John
- 20 Zeljko Susa
- 21 Steven Tillinger
- 22 Michael Reda
- 23 Hrvoje Matkovic



- 1 Bojo Jevdjovic
- 2 Dean Fak
- 3 Manny Gotis
- 4 Mehmed Durakovic
- 5 Jeff Hopkins
- 6 Brian MacNichol
- 7 Andy Vargas
- 8 Clayton Bell
- 9 Robbie Puca
- 10 Sandy Robertson
- 11 John Hutchinson
- 12 Peter Kakos
- 13 Adrian Savage
- 14 Doug Marcina
- 15 Jonathon Buhugiar
- 16 Juan Nilo
- 17 Will Hastie
- 18 Michael Katz
- 19 Ivan Mandic
- 20 Simon Miotto



Venue: Knights Stadium - Tuesday 28 December 1999 6.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 1 Knights wins: 0 Falcons wins: 0 Draws: 1
 Last Week: Knights 3-3 away draw with Kingz
 Falcons 0-2 home loss to Marconi

PARRAMATTA POWER v SYDNEY OLYMPIC

- 1 Andrew Crews
- 2 David Barrett
- 3 Michael Santalab
- 4 Steve Eagleton
- 5 Richard Plesa
- 6 Joe Vrkic
- 7 Jacob Burns
- 8 Walter Ardone
- 9 Mile Sterjovski
- 10 Joel Griffiths
- 11 Steve Berry
- 12 Stephen Laybutt
- 13 Milan Blagojevic
- 14 John Angelucci
- 15 Danny Townsend
- 16 Mark Byrnes
- 17 Danny Kukucka
- 18 Lachlan Campbell
- 19 Matt Thompson
- 20 Barney Smith
- 21 Ahmid Elrich
- 22 John Gibson
- 23 Peter Bennett



- 1 Jim Kourtis
- 2 Scott Thomas
- 3 Chris Zoricich
- 4 Peter Tsekenis
- 5 Scott Baillie
- 6 Ante Juric
- 7 Zlatko Arambasic
- 8 Marcus Phillips
- 9 Pablo Cardozo
- 10 Brett Emerton
- 11 Chris Kalantzis
- 12 Sebastian Sinozic
- 13 Gabriel Mendez
- 14 Lindsay Wilson
- 15 Paul Kohler
- 16 John Kyriazopoulos
- 17 Nick Carle
- 18 George Bouhoutsos
- 19 Lee Miot
- 20 Pete Zorbas
- 21 Dylan Macallister
- 22 Norman Tome
- 23 Husseln Jomaa
- 24 Adam Ciantar
- 25 John Karoubas



Venue: Parramatta Stadium - Tuesday 28 December 7.30PM
 Head to Head: Played N/A
 Last Week: Power 1-2 away win over Sydney United
 Olympic 2-0 home win over Strikers

SYDNEY UNITED v SOUTH MELBOURNE

- 1 John Crawley
- 2 Ray Younis
- 3 Mark Racker
- 4 Velimir Kupresak
- 5 Eddie Bosnar
- 6 Vince Savocca
- 7 Mirko Jurilj
- 8 Nahuel Arrarte
- 9 Mario Jermen
- 10 Ante Moric
- 11 Tom Pondelljak
- 12 Tom Maric
- 13 Matthew Zec
- 14 Kain Rastall
- 15 Aytac Genc
- 16 Joe Moric
- 17 Nick Boseviski
- 18 Steve Bozinovski
- 19 Greg Saric
- 20 Steve Tollos
- 21 Ante Deak
- 22 Brett Hughes



- 1 Milan Udvaracz
- 2 Steve Iosifidis
- 3 Fausto de Amicis
- 4 Nick Orlic
- 5 Con Blatsis
- 6 David Clarkson
- 7 Steve Panopoulos
- 8 Vaughan Coveny
- 9 Paul Trimboli
- 10 Michael Curcija
- 11 John Anastasiadis
- 12 Richie Alagich
- 13 Adrian Cuzzupe
- 14 Anthony Magnacca
- 15 Goran Lozanovski
- 16 George Goutzoulis
- 17 Jim Tsekinis
- 18 Robert Liparoti
- 19 Tasos Psonis
- 20 Chris Jones
- 21 Mustafa Mustafa



Venue: Sydney United Sports Centre - Tuesday 28 December 6.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 33 United wins: 16 South Melbourne wins: 15 Draws: 2
 Last Week: United 1-2 home loss to Power
 South Melbourne 1-2 home loss to Carlton

LIVE TUESDAY 28 DECEMBER 8.00 PM

C7 SPORT CHANNEL 12

**BRISBANE STRIKERS
V WOLLONGONG WOLVES**



STRIKERS

- 1 Clint Bolton
- 2 Glenn Gwynne
- 3 Shane Stefanutto
- 4 Andrew Davidson
- 5 Matthew Belli (below)
- 6 Brad Ditton
- 7 Shane Smeltz
- 8 David Pilic
- 9 Paul Foster
- 10 Wayne Srhoj
- 11 Greg Di Losa
- 12 Peter Dwyer
- 13 Stuart McClaren
- 14 Jade North
- 15 Leo Langone
- 16 Peter Grierson
- 17 Jeromy Harris
- 18 Nick Meredith
- 19 Wade Baldwin
- 20 Daniel Duke

WOLVES

- 1 Leslie Pogliacomi
- 2 George Souris
- 3 Alvin Ceccoli
- 4 Robert Stanton
- 5 David Cervinski
- 6 Matthew Horsley
- 7 Paul Reid
- 8 Anthony Surjan
- 9 Sasho Dimoski
- 10 Stuart Young
- 11 Scott Chipperfield
- 12 Neil Harlock
- 13 Noel Spencer
- 14 Saso Petrovski
- 15 David Huxley
- 16 Peter Lahanas
- 17 Esala Masi
- 18 Chad Bishop
- 19 Paul Dimech
- 20 Daniel Bertrame
- 21 Christian Zelvis



Venue: **Suncorp Metway Stadium**

Tuesday 28 December 7.30PM

Head-to-Head: 17

Strikers: 10

Wolves: 4

Draws: 3

Last Week:

Strikers: 2-0 away loss to Olympic

Wolves: 3-0 home win over Cosmos



**PERTH GLORY
V MARCONI STALLIONS**



GLORY

- 1 Danny Milosevic
- 2 Robert Trajkovski
- 3 Jamie Harnwell
- 4
- 5 Vinko Buljubasic
- 6 Gareth Naven
- 7 Scott Miller
- 8 Troy Halpin
- 9 Alistair Edwards
- 10 Bobby Despotoski
- 11 Kasey Wehrman
- 12 Peter Buljan
- 13 Jamos Afkos
- 14 Dion Valle
- 15 Edgar Junior
- 16 Con Boutsianis (below)
- 17 Vas Kalogeracos
- 18 Hamilton Thorp
- 19 John Carbone
- 20 Tony Franken
- 21 Ivan Ergic
- 22 Jason Petkovic

STALLIONS

- 1 Michael Turnbull
- 2 Chad Gibson
- 3 Mark Babic
- 4
- 5 Dominic Longo
- 6 Pan-Keum Kim
- 7 Christian Care
- 8 Darren McDonald
- 9 Zeljko Babic
- 10 Brad Maloney
- 11 Mike Smith
- 12
- 13 Danny Invincible
- 14 Buddy Farah
- 15 Pierluigi di Gia
- 16
- 17 Francis Awaritefe
- 18 Harry Karl
- 19 Brendan Ranaud
- 20 David Aceski
- 21 Paolo Marchesini
- 22 Kris Trajanovski
- 23 Vlado Zoric
- 24 Josaia Junior Sauturaga
- 25
- 26 Daniel Severino



Venue: **Perth Oval**

Tuesday 28 December 5.00PM

Head to Head: 8

Glory: 4

Stallions: 0

Draws: 4

Last Week:

Glory: 3-2 away loss to Breakers

Stallions: 0-2 away win over Falcons



Want to see
SOCCER

every weekend?

See more soccer
This weekend's telecasts
Brisbane Strikers v Wollongong Wolves Tuesday night.

To Subscribe Call:
Optus Television 133 399 or AUSTAR 132 432

C7 sport